



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MACK CHARLES PARKER

PART 1 OF 1

SUBJECT

MAC K CHARLES PARKER

**FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
RELEASE**

SUBJECT: MACK CHARLES PARKER

FILE: _____

SUB: _____

VOL: _____

PAGES REVIEWED: 370

PAGES RELEASED: 370

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44-14401-416

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8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
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13. [REDACTED]

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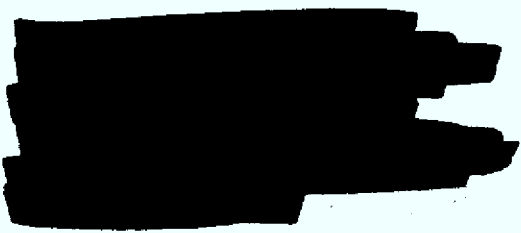
- A. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS REYER
- B. ARTHUR EUGENE SMITH
- C. JEWEL HAYSEL ALFORD
- D. FRANCIS M. PARKER
- E. JAMES FLOREN LEE, SR.
- F. JOHN P. WALKER
- G. [REDACTED]
- H. L. C. DAVIS
- I. JAMES FLOREN LEE, JR.
- J. GEORGE W. RESTER, JR.
- K. [REDACTED]
- L. [REDACTED]
- M. [REDACTED]
- N. [REDACTED]
- O. [REDACTED]
- P. [REDACTED]
- Q. [REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

**SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION OF
THE ABDUCTION OF MACK CHARLES
PARKER FROM THE PEARL RIVER
COUNTY JAIL, POPLARVILLE, MISSISSIPPI,
APRIL 24-25, 1959**

On February 24, 1959, MACK CHARLES PARKER, a colored male, Lumberton, Mississippi, was arrested by City Marshal HAMOND H. SLADE, Lumberton, Mississippi, on charges of rape and kidnaping of Mrs. JUNE VIRGINIA WALTERS, a white female of Petal, Mississippi, early that morning south of Lumberton and in Pearl River County. PARKER was lodged in Hinds County Jail, Jackson, Mississippi, on February 24, 1959, for polygraph tests and was removed to the Pearl River County Jail, Poplarville, on April 13, 1959.

Between 11:30 PM, April 24, 1959, and about 12:15 AM, April 25, 1959, a band of hooded or masked men, eight to ten in number, entered the Pearl River County Jail, located in the Pearl River County Courthouse, this jail being unattended by a jailer during the night hours. These men forcibly removed PARKER from the jail and placed him in an automobile parked on the south side of the courthouse. PARKER's body was found in the Pearl River on the Mississippi side approximately two and one-half miles south of State Highway #26 on May 4, 1959. His identity was established through fingerprints. An autopsy disclosed that death occurred from a penetrating wound in the left auricle of the heart.

A "John Doe" warrant charging kidnaping of PARKER was issued by Justice of the Peace J. E. HOLCOMB, Poplarville, on April 25, 1959. A "John Doe" warrant charging murder of PARKER was issued on May 5, 1959, by Judge HOLCOMB. Both of these warrants were based on affidavits sworn to by Sheriff W. GEORGE MOODY, Pearl River County.

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13 During the early morning hours following the
14 abduction of PARKER, representatives of the Federal Bureau
15 of Investigation were informed of PARKER's abduction by
16 Sheriff WOODY and members of the Mississippi Highway Safety
17 Patrol.
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SUMMARY OF FBI INVESTIGATION

I. DESCRIPTION OF CRIME SCENE

The following ten charts were prepared by Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] on April 28, 29, 30, and May 1, 1959, from observations and measurements, or from maps of the areas shown. b7c

Chart "A" was prepared from a current road map in the scale of the map. For comparison purposes, the distance between cities 1 and 7 is 23.5 miles. Names of the pertinent counties have been typed in. The two charts on Poplarville, Mississippi, Charts "B" and "C", were taken from a local town map plus some detail from a map of the water mains. Chart "D" of the three block area from Main Street to Pine Street are approximate measurements with building details not shown. Chart "E" of the courthouse square and building is drawn closely to proportion as is Chart "F" showing Pearl River Hospital square. Charts "G" and "H" of the two floors of the courthouse are in proportion without unnecessary detail being shown. Charts "I" and "J" of the tiers of the jail are also in proportion with all pertinent detail shown.

North is shown as the top direction on A, B, and C making up the Mississippi area and town of Poplarville. Other charts have directions shown but, because of size or shape, they do not show north at the top.

Poplarville has a population of about 1000 and has not changed materially since the 1950 census. North Street generally divides the town from east to west, while Main Street, running north and south, is the division in the other direction.

The courthouse square is the center point of the town and faces on Main Street. Behind the courthouse, across South Julia Street, is the square containing the Pearl River Hospital and the County Health Building. Main Street runs down the south side of the courthouse and hospital squares and West Willie Street runs down the north side of the same squares. Pearl and Willie Streets continue west past South Strahan and South Pine Streets and come to a dead end. Julia, Strahan, and Pine Streets come to North Street.

going north after crossing Willie Street. North Street is Mississippi Highway 26 to Bogalusa, Louisiana, which is twenty miles west of Poplarville. North Street crosses United States Highway 11 about one-half mile west of Main Street. This highway runs north to Hattiesburg, Mississippi thirty-six miles away and south to Picayune, Mississippi twenty-four miles away.

Julia, Strahan and Pine Streets go south across Cumberland, also a dead end street, to Beers Street. Highway 11 can be reached by going west on Beers Street.

In Chart "C", it will be noted that Main Street continues south to Gulfport, Mississippi as State Highway 53. At Michigan Avenue, State Highway 26 turns off Main Street to go east to Wiggins, Mississippi. Going west on Michigan Avenue would bring a car back to United States Highway 11. These are all improved roads.

Chart "D" showing the three block area bounded by Main, Pearl, Pine and Willie Streets shows the relationship between the hospital and the courthouse and shows two of the dead end streets which would lead get-away routes.

Chart "E", showing the courthouse square, as in proportion and all exterior detail is shown. This block is approximately 175 feet square. The front entrance to the courthouse is not used and is blocked on the inside by desks and chairs. The south entrance is actually used as the main entrance, although the north entrance is also used. The building is three stories high with the entrance to the jail portion being on the second floor. The jail portion of the building is also three stories high with the two top floors being used for a jail. The church shown at the southeast corner of the courthouse is so large that it covers almost to the parking area and is about two stories in height.

The Pearl River Hospital building is one story in height. The main entrance is on Julia Street directly across the street from the jail, but the entrance on the Pearl Street side is used by many doctors as it gives

direct access to rooms on that side.

Chart "G", showing the first floor of the courthouse, shows the office of the Sheriff on the Main Street side of the building. The larger part of his space is a public room where records are kept. The small room to the south of the public room is the Sheriff's private office and contains the file cabinet in which the keys were kept. The last small room has one window that is normally open for ventilation of that room. This window cannot be easily reached from the ground. The other open window shown at the north end of the public room opens into the raised section, forming the front entrance to the courthouse. To enter through this window would only require stepping over the sill.

There is a stairway at the south end of the first floor just as shown at the north end, but this comes up back of the courtroom and is not readily accessible to the jail door. It therefore was not shown on this chart.

The second floor, Chart "H", shows the only entrance to the jail. This entrance is in the courtroom space and there are seats in the courtroom near the railing back to the north end of the room. It is necessary to walk around these seats to get from the jail door to the courtroom exit.

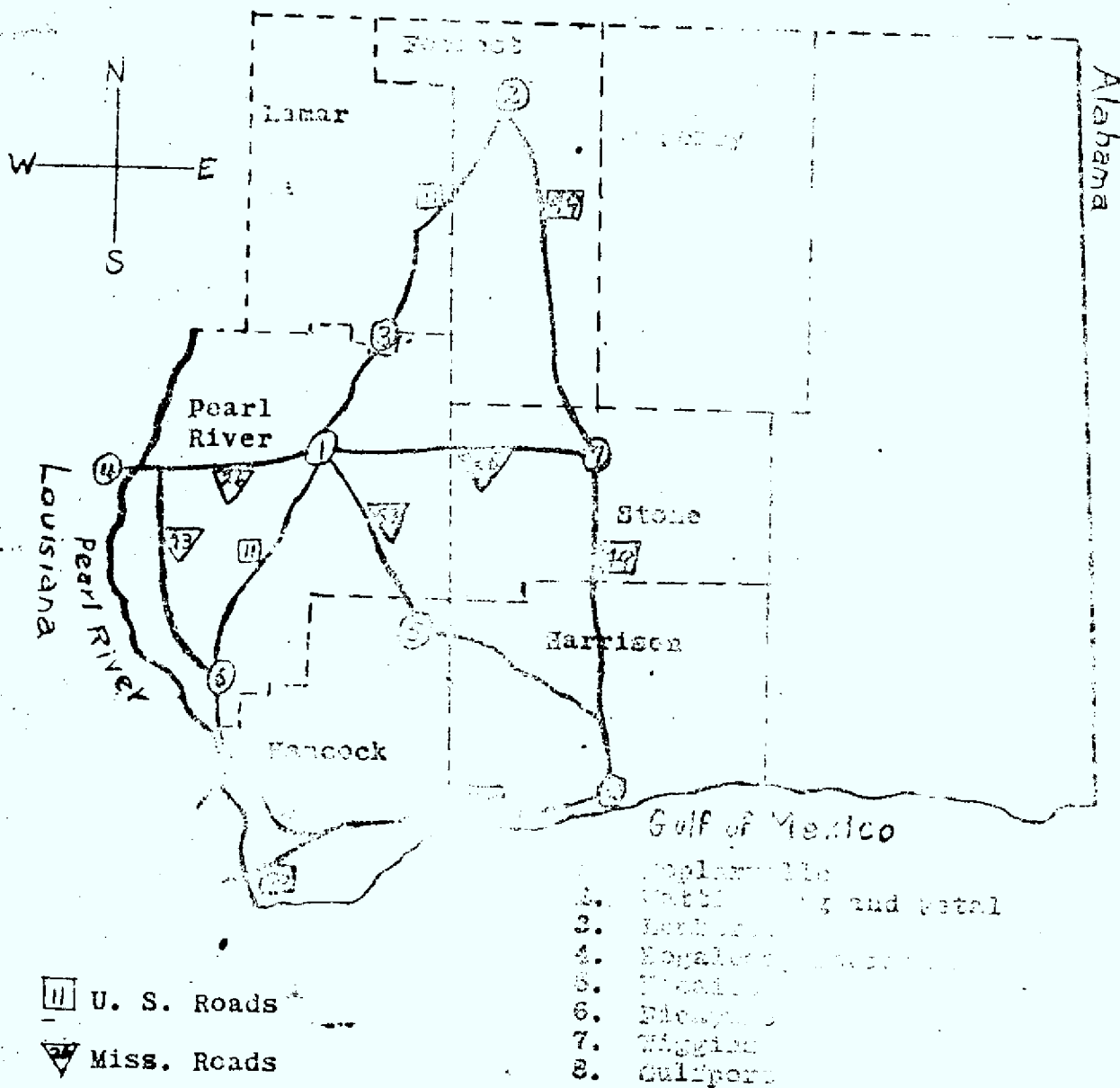
The jail is on two floors with the entrance door being about half-way between the floors. The Negro section is on the third floor, while the white section is on the second floor. Both of these floors are shown on Chart "I" and "J", with PARKER's cell being noted. The windows at the south end of each jail floor are those looking out over the court at the south side of the courthouse. There are similar windows on the north side.

The route by which PARKER was taken from the jail to Pearl Street at the south end of the courthouse has been marked by arrows on Charts "I", "J", "K", and "L", showing the Negro section of the jail, area of the courthouse, the first floor of the courthouse, and the courtroom square.

NO 44-1018

CHART "A"

PERTINENT MISSISSIPPI AREA



NO 44-1018

CHART "B"

POPLARVILLE, MISS.

Business Area

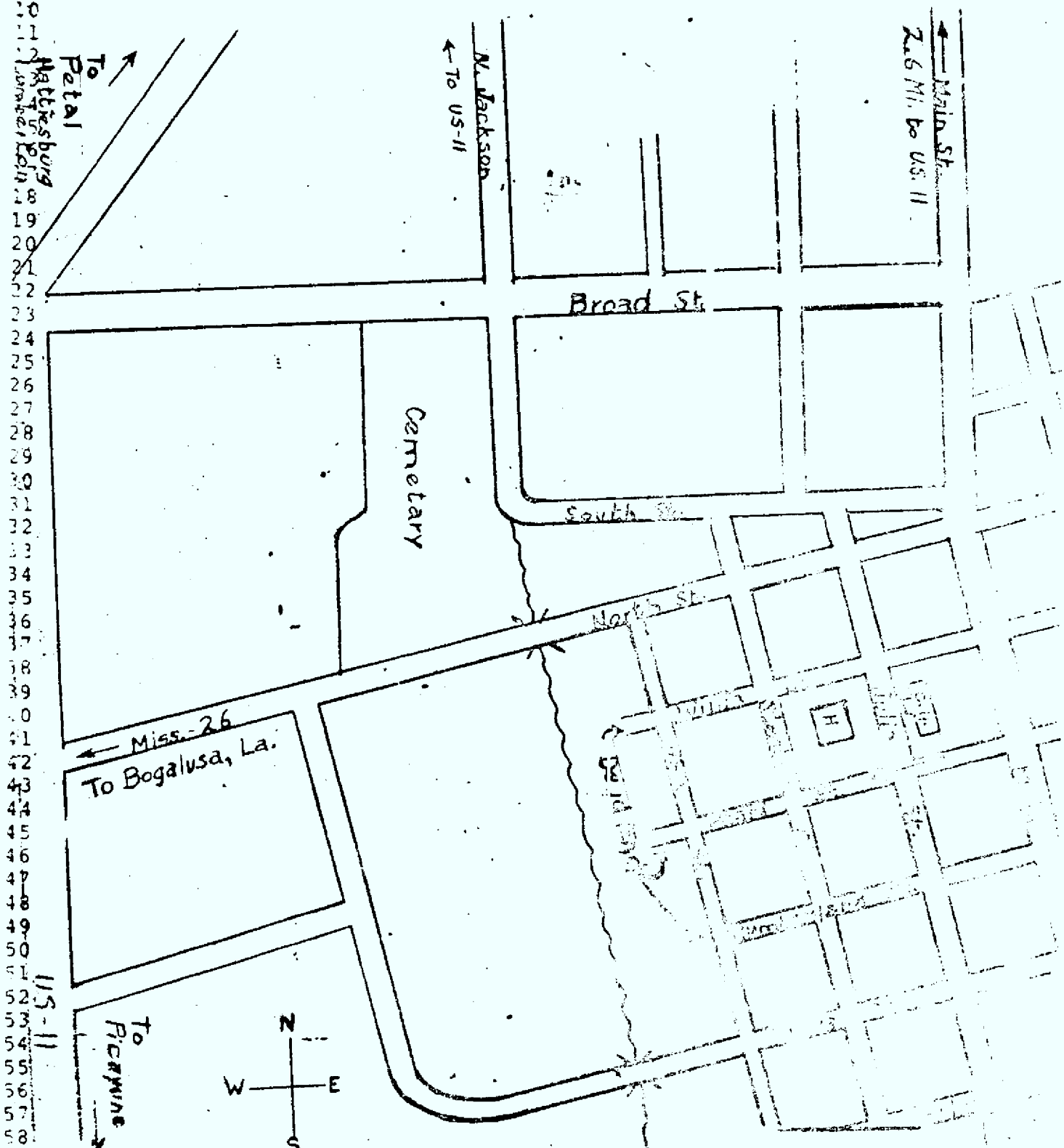


CHART "C"

Michigan Ave

Dead End

Evangelical

Main St

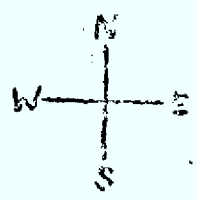
Ford St

Church St

R.R.

Michigan Ave

To US-11



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00 Main St.

100 W. Willie St.

100 W. Pearl St.

Court House

Jail

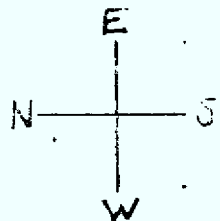
S. Julia St.

Health Bldg.

Hospital

200

S. Strahan St.

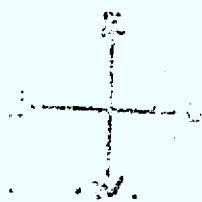
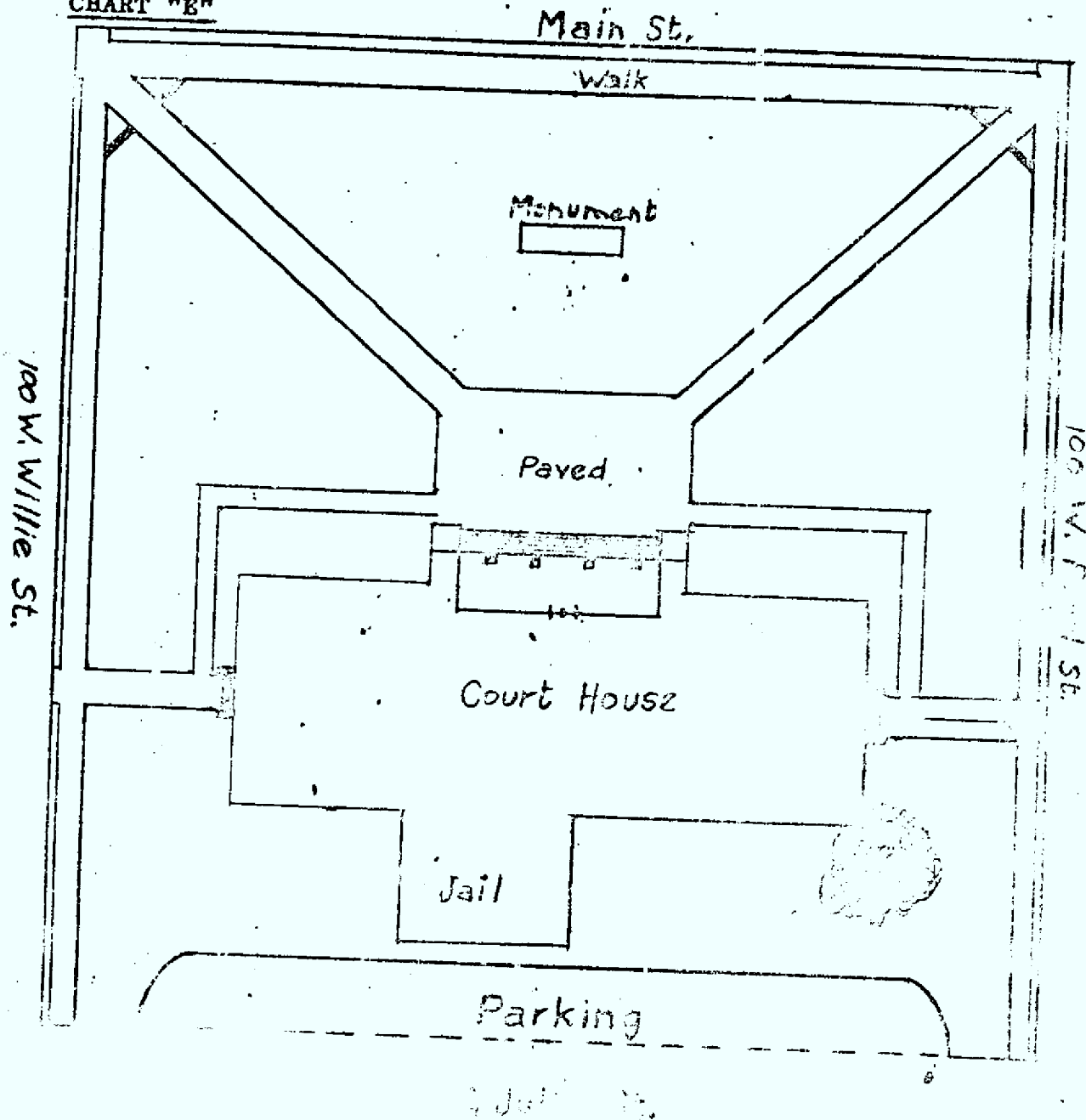


300

S. Pine St.

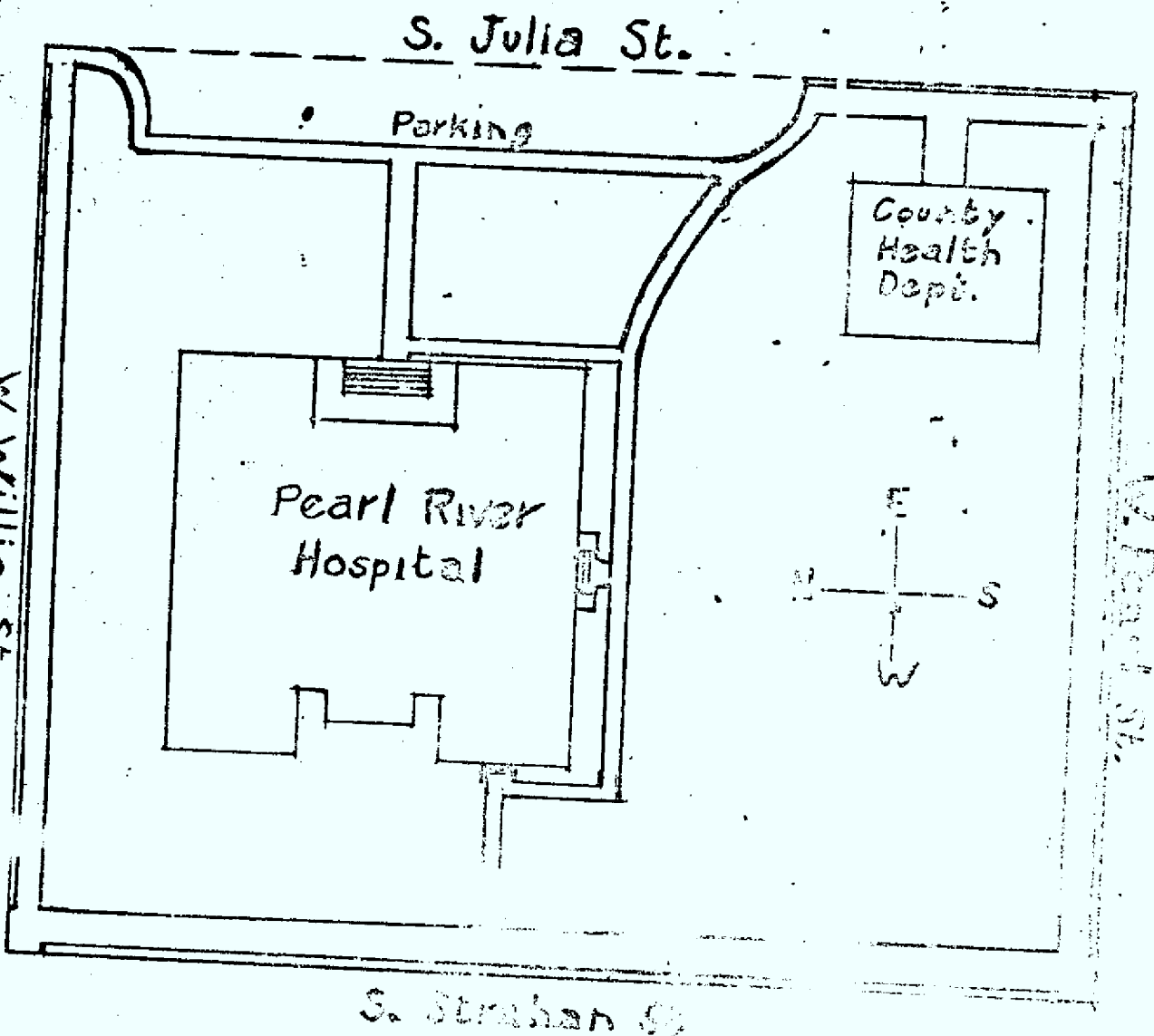
Dead End

NO 44-1018
CHART "E"



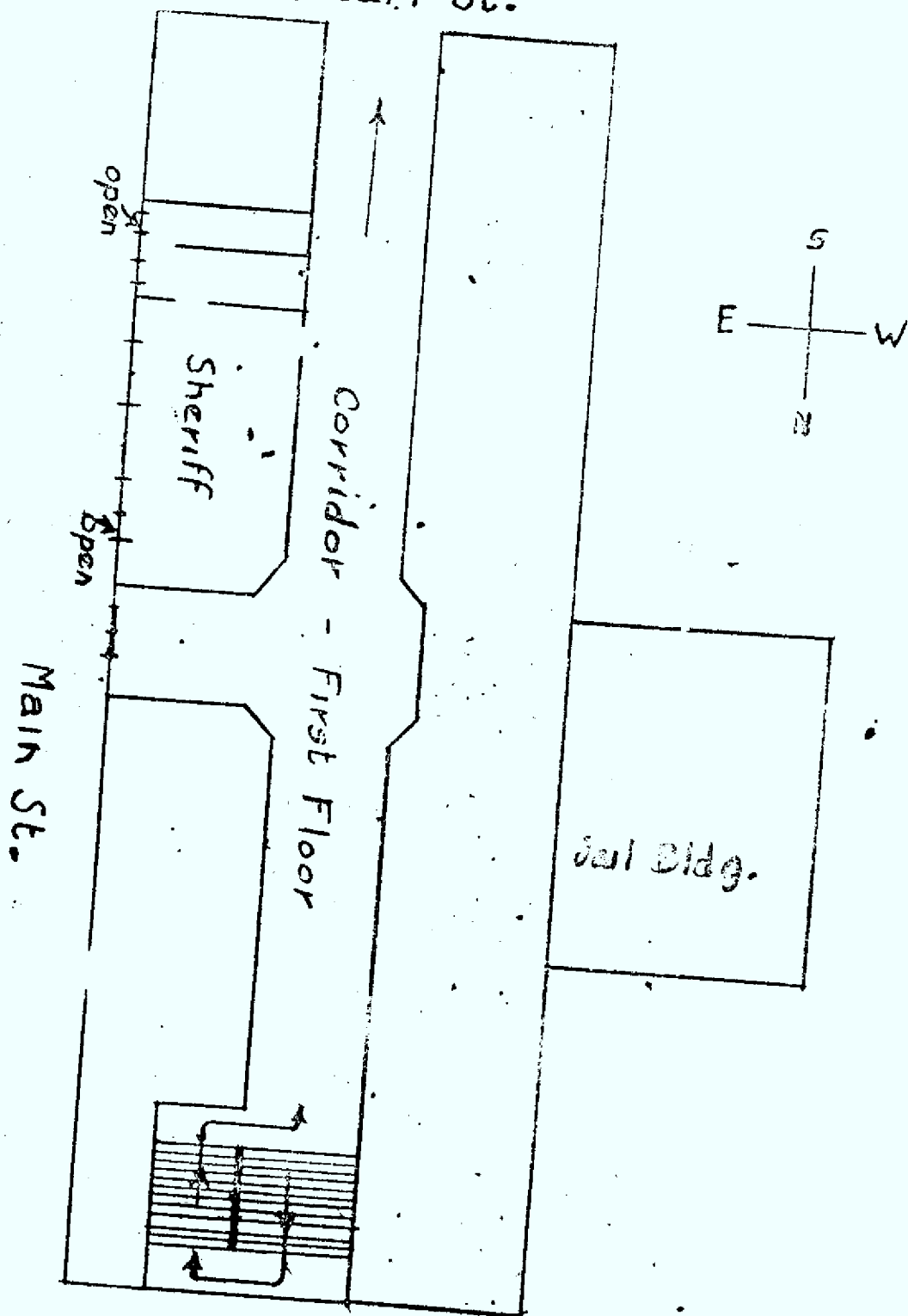
NO 44-1018

CHART "B"



NO 44-1018
CHART "G"

W. Pearl St.

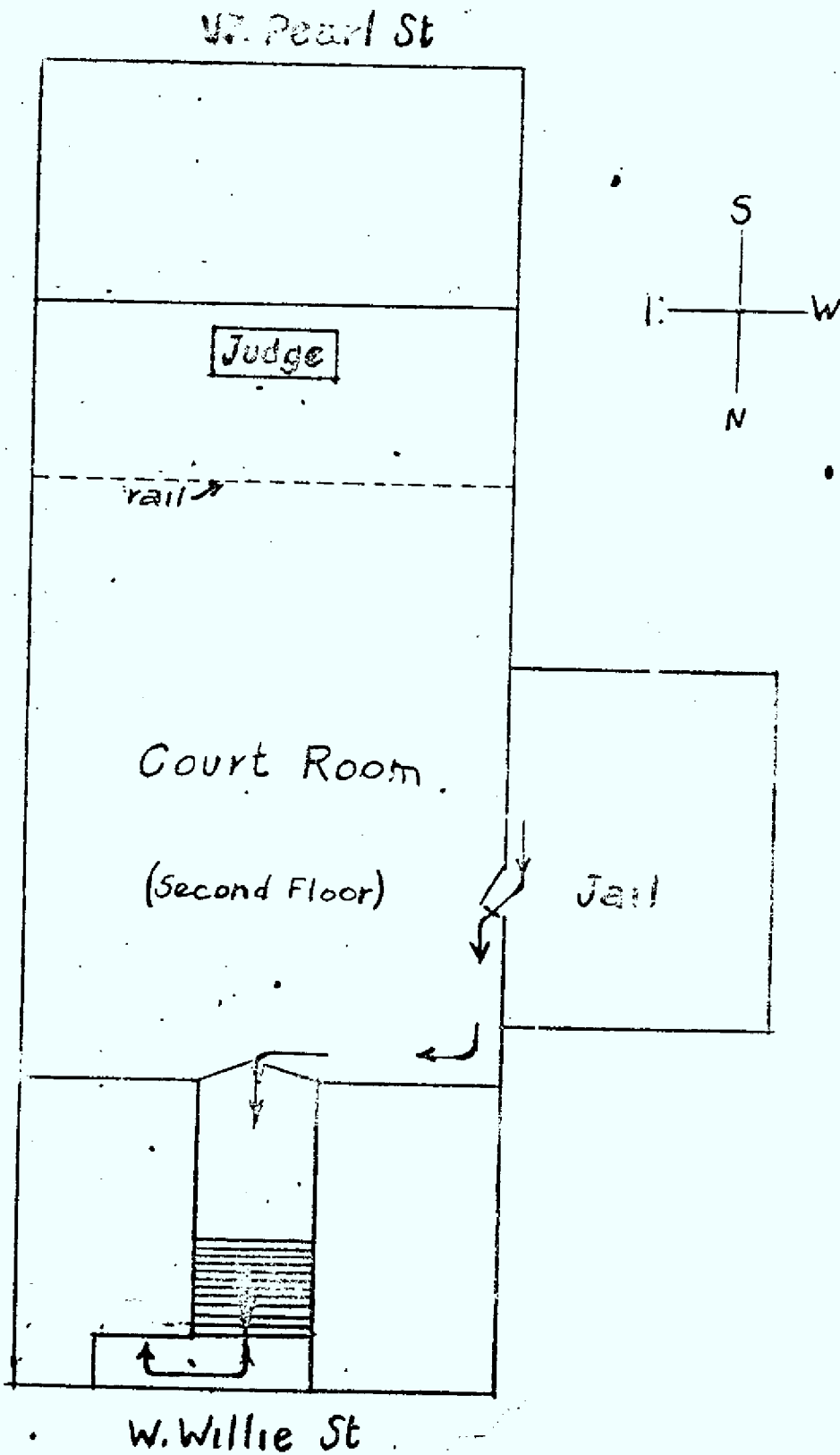


Main St.

W. Willie St.

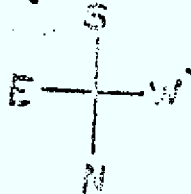
NO 44-1018

CHART "H"



Upper Floor - North Wing

Bell Room



Cell

← Court Room

Down

Platform

Down
To W.

Cell
(Parker)

Bull Pen

Windows

Up Negro

Platform

Down White

Lower Tier - White Soil

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13 WILLIAM H. STEWART, County Attorney, Pearl
14 River County, Poplarville, advised Special Agents (SA's)
15 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 1, 1959, b7c
16 that, between 1:30 AM and 2:00 AM, on the morning of
17 April 25, 1959, he had taken photographs of the Pearl River
18 County Courthouse and the immediate area outside with a
19 Polaroid Camera. He stated that these photographs had been
20 fifteen in number and that he had turned the photographs
21 over to Deputy Sheriff GEORGE MOODY.

22
23 The photographs taken by Mr. STEWART were b7c
24 obtained from Deputy Sheriff MOODY on May 1, 1959, by SA's
25 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. On this same date, Mr. STEWART identi-
26 fied these photographs as follows:

- 27
28 #1. Taken from the north door of the
29 courtroom facing west into the
30 entrance to the jail showing a
31 trail where dust was disturbed
32 on the courtroom floor.
- 33
34 #2. Indicates the top of the West
35 flight of stairs outside north
36 door of the courtroom in the north
37 end of the courthouse showing
38 spots of blood.
- 39
40 #3. At the foot of the stairway in
41 the north end of the courthouse
42 showing bloodstains and smears on
43 the floor, which, according to
44 STEWART, indicate PARKER was dragged
45 south from this point.
- 46
47 #4. Same as #3, except [REDACTED] a slightly
48 greater distance into blood [REDACTED].
- 49
50 #5. Taken from center corridor of the
51 courthouse with camera facing north
52 showing bloodstains on the wall and
53 on wall, indicating PARKER was [REDACTED]

dragged on the floor and had rubbed against the east wall of the hall.

#6. Taken from center of courthouse corridor toward the east showing the door to the Sheriff's Office reflecting blood smears on the floor and on the wall just outside Sheriff's Office.

#7. Close-up view of blood smears described above in #6.

#8. Photograph taken from center of corridor in front of Sheriff's Office door facing toward south door of the courthouse and, according to STEWART, blood smears in the hall indicating victim dragged toward south door.

#9. Taken just outside the south door of the courthouse facing north, a close-up view of blood smears in the entrance to the courthouse apparently made by PARKER and also showing a visible heel-print in the doorway.

#10. Taken from the top of the steps at the south door of the courthouse facing south showing bloodstains on the steps indicating PARKER was dragged down these steps.

#11. Taken at bottom of stairs leading to the south door showing blood splatters which, according to STEWART, indicate PARKER was probably carried from the bottom of the stairs rather than dragged.

#12. View of blood splatters on wall between bottom of stairs to door

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12 south door and street.

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14 #13. View of sidewalk in front of south
15 door to the courthouse showing blood
16 splatters and blood smears on sidewalk.

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18 #14. Indicates blood splatters which were
19 just north of the splatters and blood
20 smears shown in photograph #13. These
21 splatters were between the bottom of
22 the stairs leading to the south door
23 to the courthouse and the blood shown
24 on the sidewalk in photograph #13.

25
26 #15. Shows curb, part of sidewalk, blood
27 on the sidewalk and curb and the absence
28 of blood in the street which, according
29 to STEWART, would indicate PARKER was
30 placed in car which was immediately
31 adjacent to this curb.

32
33 The above-described photographs are attached.

34
35 On April 27, 1959, Patrolman T. V. THOMAS,
36 Mississippi Highway Safety School (Class), Pinebluff, Miss-
37 issippi, advised SA [REDACTED] that he made photo-
38 graphs inside and outside the Pearl River County Courthouse
39 about 2:30 AM on the morning of April 25, 1959. Patrolman
40 THOMAS described these photographs as follows:

41
42 #1. Northeast corner of the Pearl River
43 County Sheriff's Office, showing northeast
44 corner window partially open.

45
46 #2. Photograph taken from Pearl Street
47 looking north toward the south
48 entrance of the Pearl River County
49 Courthouse. Photograph shows stairs
50 leading from Pearl Street to the south
51 entrance of the courthouse.

52
53 #3. First floor corridor of Pearl River
54 County Courthouse; photograph taken

looking in a northeasterly direction.
Doorway in upper right hand corner of
photograph is entrance to Sheriff's
Office.

- #4. First floor corridor and stairway in
northern section of Pearl River County
Courthouse.
- #5. First floor corridor of Pearl River
County Courthouse, looking in a northerly
direction along corridor.
- #6. First floor corridor of Pearl River
County Courthouse; photograph taken at
south entrance, looking in a northerly
direction.
- #7. Photograph taken in courtroom, second
floor, Pearl River County Courthouse,
photograph being of outer door leading
from courtroom into cell block proper.

Patrolman THOMAS advised that the negatives
of these photographs would be filed in the HESP at Jackson,
Mississippi, re MACK CHARLES PARKER case. The photographs
were taken with a Crown Graphic 4 X 5 on Tri-X Film.

Copies of the above-described photographs are
attached.

On April 27, 1959, SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] b7c
searched the jail area and the route by which
PARKER was taken to a car at the south side of the courthouse.

A garbage can in the Negro bull pen of the
jail contained a broken broom handle on which appeared to be
bloodstains. The garbage can also had what appeared to be a
smear of blood on the side. This smear was scraped off with
a penknife.

A mattress cover from one of the jail bunks had on it what appeared to be bloodstains and these stains were scraped off with a knife.

The interior of the bars at the exit to the stairway going down to the platform also had some faint stains, which were scraped off. No other stains were found in the jail or any place else in the courthouse which appeared to be bloodstains.

Outside the courthouse, where the concrete walkway met the gutter at the street, there appeared to be some bloodstains on some grass. This stained grass was taken up with a knife. In a gutter immediately below this stained grass, there was a brown stain, which was taken up with the possibility that it might be a bloodstain.

The above evidence was submitted to the FBI Laboratory, April 23, 1959.

No latent fingerprints were located at the crime scene, and witnesses indicated that immediately following the abduction and prior to the investigation by the FBI numerous persons were milling around in the area. It is also noted that the abductors, according to witnesses, were wearing gloves.

The FBI Laboratory, in a report dated May 6, 1959, concerning the evidence referred to above, advised that human blood from either a Group "O" or a Group "A" person was found on the broomstick. Scrapings from the mattress cover, from the garbage can and from the grass clippings from the edge of the curb were also determined to be blood from a Group "O" or Group "A" person.

It is to be noted that immediately after the abduction, on the early morning of April 23, 1959, a trusty in the jail and janitors of the courthouse, using soap and water, cleaned up the jail and the area around the courthouse, thereby removing most of the evidence at the crime scene by the abductors.

II. INDIVIDUALS AT CONFERENCES
FOLLOWING ABDUCTION

A. W. OSBORNE MOODY,
Sheriff, Pearl River County

Sheriff MOODY was interviewed on April 25, 26, and 28, 1959, by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and on April 27 and 29, 1959, by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He furnished the following information concerning his activities on the night of April 24, 1959 and the morning of April 25, 1959:

On Friday evening, April 24, 1959, he and his wife went to the home of his son, Deputy Sheriff GEORGE MOODY, at Poplarville, where his wife was baby-sitting for the son. He advised after leaving GEORGE MOODY's home he arrived home at about 11:50 PM, and shortly thereafter, at a time not noted, he received a telephone call from a nurse at the Pearl River County Hospital in Poplarville, whose name he could not recall. This individual advised that there was considerable noise in the jail located directly across the street from the hospital and that it appeared like all the prisoners might be fighting. During the course of this call, the nurse stated that the noise had suddenly stopped and the lights in the jail had gone out. He said he again would check it as it was probably a fight. He had no reason in hurry, so he did not put his clothes on in a big hurry and took his time driving to the jail from his home, about eight miles west of Poplarville on the Bogalusa, Louisiana road.

Upon arriving in Poplarville, the time estimated to be about 1:00 AM, April 25, 1959, the Sheriff drove to the hospital and saw a small group of people standing there, consisting of EATE ORR, E. F. ORR, E. F. ORR, Day Marshal, [REDACTED] and a man known as [REDACTED]. He did not pay too much attention to this group at this time, but the next day did occur to him that something serious must be going on. The Day Marshal, E. F. ORR, was rarely out of the jail. He stopped and asked the group what had happened and [REDACTED] in the group spoke up and said, "They got the nigger."

He drove around and parked at the south side of the courthouse and noted the door was open at the south end of the courthouse. He saw some blood on the steps, in the hall and all along the hall to the steps leading upstairs from the north end of the courthouse and it appeared to him that some bloody object or person had been dragged down the entire length of the hall. He later noted this blood trail led upstairs through the courtroom and in the jail cell.

He also noted that the lights were off in the main hall leading from the north to the south portion of the courthouse and the lights in his office were also off. It is customary to leave at least one light on in the Sheriff's Office and to leave one or more lights burning in the hall.

Sheriff MOODY had to use a flashlight in order to see when he went into the hall and into his office. The hall door of his office was locked. When he got into his office, he noted the bathroom window was open and that the northeast window in his office, which leads off the east portion of the courthouse, was open. It is customary to close these windows each night and they are secured by hook and eye located on each side of the window at the bottom. In order for someone to force these windows from the outside, it would be necessary for them to break the glass, reach inside and release these hooks. He was unable to state whether or not these windows had been closed and secured the night previous.

He noticed no sign which would indicate entrance to his office had been gained through the northeast window, but it was his opinion the persons had probably used this window because the window in the bathroom, which was open, is some distance from the ground. He also saw no indication that the bathroom had been used. MOODY pointed out that the jail keys are, as a rule, kept in the top drawer of a metal four-drawer file cabinet, located on the west side of his office, across the office from his desk. The key to this file cabinet is usually kept in the top left-hand drawer of his desk, which is now locked. Therefore, the usual procedure in going to the jail is to take the

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12 file cabinet key from the desk drawer, open the file cabinet,
13 remove the jail keys from the top drawer of the file cabinet,
14 and then proceed to the jail.

15
16 When Sheriff MOODY first came into his office
17 he reached for his personal key to the file cabinet, which
18 he carries on his key chain or person, and then noticed the
19 upper drawer of the file cabinet was open a few inches.
20 At first he did not notice whether the key to the file
21 cabinet, which is usually kept in the desk drawer, was in
22 the lock. However, the next time he noticed this file
23 cabinet, it was in an unlocked position and the key was in
24 the lock. He could not state whether the key was in this
25 lock when he first came into his office, but stated it could
26 very well have been there and probably was. He looked into the
27 drawer, noted the jail keys were missing and proceeded upstairs
28 to the jail.

29
30 On the way to the jail, he was met in the
31 hall by B. F. ONE, Day Marshal of Poplarville, who handed
32 him the jail keys, which he identified as the keys which had
33 been regularly maintained in his office. ONE stated he had
34 found these keys where members of the mob had apparently
35 dropped them. Upon arriving at the jail, Sheriff MOODY
36 noted the front door to the jail was locked and closed.
37 This door is equipped with a night latch which will lock
38 when drawn closed and members of the mob could have locked
39 the door by closing it.

40
41 Sheriff MOODY inquired of the prisoners
42 as to what had happened and they told him a group of masked
43 men had taken "M. C.", that they had keys with them and
44 they were wearing white gloves. He talked to the prisoners
45 hurriedly, but they said one of the men seemed to be fumbling
46 around with the lock on the outside door as though he did not
47 know which key to use.

48
49 One of the Negro prisoners named F. ONE
50 informed Sheriff MOODY that he said to LINDEN when the masked
51 men came in, "M. C., they must be after you." They were
52 the stairs, tried several keys before they got the door open,
53 asked where M. C. was and wanted to know how do you get in
54 there."

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Negro prisoner [REDACTED] claimed he showed members of the mob how to open the cell door by unlocking a metal box containing levers which open the cell door to PARKER's cell. The prisoners said members of the mob changed keys while trying to open this box, that the first key did not work, indicating they did not know which key opened the box. b7c

The Negro prisoners said there were eight or nine members of the mob. A white woman prisoner said some of the men stayed in the courtroom and she could see some of them wearing different colored handkerchiefs and masks.

A small group of people accompanied the Sheriff when he went to the jail. Among this group were PETE CARVER, B. F. ORR, Day Marshal, one or two of the WHEAT men and several others.

Sheriff MOODY noticed planks of blood in the halls and other places and remarked there would be blood in the car used to carry PARKER away.

The first thing Sheriff MOODY did upon returning to his office was to call [REDACTED], Patrolman, MHSF, and ask him to get other stations and boys alerted to stop all cars and be on the lookout for a car with blood in any car. Next, he called SA [REDACTED] and thought perhaps he had called the [REDACTED] and then called his home number and the line was busy. He then telephoned VERNON BROOKS, District Attorney; [REDACTED] DARR, Circuit Judge; Governor J. P. COLEMAN and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told SA [REDACTED] a mob had taken PARKER. b7c

Shortly after the Sheriff had made three telephone calls, JOHN [REDACTED] came into the Sheriff's office and sat down. A number of other people were in the time, including the individuals previously mentioned. [REDACTED] J. WHEAT, PETE CARVER, B. F. ORR and [REDACTED]. The Sheriff inquired if anything had happened. PETE CARVER said he had been drinking coffee at the time. b7c

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12 JOHN REYER said he had driven up to the
13 hospital at about the time of the commotion in the jail
14 and had gone on around to the south entrance to the
15 courthouse and had gotten pretty close to the mob. He
16 could not tell who they were as they were all masked,
17 however, one or two of them who had been using handker-
18 chiefs to mask the lower portion of their faces had
19 apparently let their masks slip down before they got to
20 the car and he could see part of their faces. However,
21 REYER told Sheriff MOODY he had never seen them before.

22
23 REYER told Sheriff MOODY he did not have
24 an opportunity to tell whether or not the cars were using
25 license plates, but he did not see any license plates. In
26 answer to Sheriff MOODY's further questioning, REYER
27 stated the men had just flushed, one car went north, one
28 south and one west, and that all together he thought that
29 probably three or four cars left the scene immediately after
30 the mob came out of the courthouse.

31
32 REYER was unable to describe the men or the
33 cars, but did reiterate he did not know any of the men.

34
35 REYER could tell that at least two of the
36 men whose masks had slipped were white men. He did not
37 notice whether the men were wearing gloves.

38
39 All of the other individuals who had been in
40 and around the Sheriff's Office claimed they did not see
41 members of the mob, REYER being the only one who claimed he
42 had seen them. Sheriff MOODY did not recall seeing
43 the [redacted] man. A little while later Sheriff MOODY got in
44 to see JIM ALFORD, the jailer, and JAMES V. MOODY,
45 who is an officer deputy and they proceeded to the
46 jail and helped search.

47
48 WILLIAM STEWART, County Jailor, was also
49 present at the jail shortly after the shooting. When
50 the Sheriff noted he, STEWART, made some photographs of
51 blood at various parts of the courthouse. When Sheriff
52 MOODY did not question any of the nurses at the hospital.

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13 Sheriff MOODY said that on April 25, 1959
14 HOUSTON AMACKER, janitor at the courthouse, told him the
15 doors of the courthouse at the north end of the hall could
16 not be opened from the inside with a key. This was the
17 first time any trouble had been experienced in opening
18 these doors from the inside with a key. They could still
19 be opened from the outside.
20

21 On May 1, 1959, these doors were examined by
22 Agents and no marks or scratches were found to indicate that
23 the doors had been forced.
24

25 Sheriff MOODY said it is customary for the
26 jail to be last checked as a rule at about 6:00 P. M. at
27 the latest. Thereafter, at night no one goes to the jail
28 unless summoned by the prisoners or unless it is necessary
29 to place a prisoner in the jail at night.
30

31 He said it has been customary for a long
32 time for the prisoners to call over to the hospital in any
33 emergency and arrangements have been made with the nurses
34 to call him when the prisoners call over to the hospital.
35

36 Sheriff MOODY advised he had no suspects;
37 that numerous people had inquired of him as to whether PARKER
38 was in the jail and he had told all of them PARKER was in the
39 jail and remarked that PARKER was brought back to the jail
40 on April 13, 1959, from the Hinds County Jail in Jackson,
41 Mississippi.
42

43 With reference to suspects having knowledge of
44 the location of various keys, MOODY informed any number of
45 people from all parts of the United States who had ever been
46 booked and placed in the jail and numerous people who had
47 appeared to make bonds for prisoners would have had an
48 opportunity to have witnessed the procedure in securing the
49 jail keys in his office, and he could see nothing significant
50 for this reason in view of the fact that the jail
51 keys were found outside.
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53 In further commenting on the jail keys,
54 Sheriff MOODY stated that, when PARKER was first brought to
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the jail, it was decided that for security purposes it would be advisable for the jailer, JENSEN ALFORD, to retain the jail keys in his personal possession and not leave them in the file cabinet as customary. He said ALFORD had these keys in his possession at all times for two or three days after PARKER was lodged at the jail. ALFORD discussed the matter with him, pointing out he was afraid that, if a mob did come to get M. C. PARKER, they would force him to give them the keys even though he buried them in the yard and would endanger his personal safety. Sheriff MOODY said he then discussed this matter with Circuit Judge SIME DALE and that Judge DALE told him to go back to the regular routine of leaving the keys in his office and, further, that in the event someone did attempt to remove PARKER from the jail no action should be taken which would endanger any law enforcement officer. Judge DALE further remarked he did not expect any violence in connection with this case.

Sheriff MOODY advised the Grand Jury was in session in Pearl River County in April, 1959, and made their usual routine inspection of the courthouse county jail and other county property on or about April 14th or 15th. He said that, while the Grand Jury consists of all men, it is customary that, when an inspection such as this is made of the jail, some of the female employees in the courthouse will accompany them through the jail out of personal curiosity and that such probably happened during the last inspection.

Sheriff MOODY advised there were no organized search parties conducting searches in the area, although he had personally driven through all the nearby country roads as had his deputies, officers of the MSP, and other local citizens immediately after learning of PARKER's abduction. Sheriff MOODY advised that within a short time after learning of the abduction, he went personally to the scene where PARKER had allegedly raped Mrs. BARTON and had located no evidence indicating that PARKER's abductors may have taken him to that area.

Sheriff MOODY advised that he had received a telephone call on April 13 or April 14, 1959, which he

thought was a local call, from an individual who declined to identify himself. This person, whom he felt sure to have been a man, said he had heard rumors that some people in Hattiesburg were upset about the case since a trial of PARKER would necessitate cross-examination of the rape victim, JUNE WALTERS, by a Negro attorney.

As a result of this call, MOODY stated he had a conversation with Circuit Judge SEBE DALE at Poplarville on either April 13 or April 14, 1959, at which time he informed Judge DALE of the context of the call and of the fact that he was concerned for PARKER's safety. He asked Judge DALE's advice about telephoning Governor J. P. COLEMAN at Jackson, Mississippi, and requesting the presence of National Guard troops at PARKER's arraignment. He stated Judge DALE said he did not feel that such action was warranted, as he felt that the people would not molest PARKER. Accordingly, Sheriff MOODY stated he took no further action toward notifying Governor COLEMAN.

B. HAROLD PIERRE CARVER, JR.

HAROLD PIERRE CARVER, JR., also known as PETE CARVER, was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was interviewed on April 27, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was again interviewed on April 27, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. CARVER advised that he resides on South Julia Street in Poplarville, Mississippi, and that he has been Night Marshal in this town for the past seven years. He furnished the following information concerning his activities on the night of April 24, 1959:

On Friday night, April 24, 1959, he came to work at about 9:00 PM, at which time he stopped by the Star Cafe in Poplarville to let them know that he would be on the streets and around town. He went to the Pearl River Junior College between 10:00 and 10:30 PM to talk to [REDACTED] while at the school talked to R. J. WHEAT and [REDACTED] and told them he would pick them up when [REDACTED] work at the college at 11:00 PM. He said [REDACTED] who is generally [REDACTED] and about Poplarville. His general procedure is to go to the school three or four times a week and always on Friday night where he picks up both [REDACTED] and WHEAT to ride with him on his rounds. Neither [REDACTED] nor WHEAT have any police powers but merely accompany [REDACTED] for amusement.

At approximately 11:00 PM, he picked up [REDACTED] and WHEAT at the college and went directly to the [REDACTED] Service Station on Highway 11, north of the intersection of Highways 11 and 26, for coffee. They returned to town at approximately 11:10 PM, and saw two men walking on a back street behind the Star Cafe. They did not pay much attention to the identity of these two men and he was unable to describe either of the men other than to say one of them was wearing khaki pants. Since there is an agreement between CARVER and B. M. ORR, the Day Marshal, that if anything unusual is seen by CARVER he is to wake up ORR and bring him to town, he, CARVER, went to ORR's home to wake him after seeing these two men. As they went by the Mississippi Power Company, located on Main Street at the corner of Cumberland, he also observed two men standing on this corner. He recalled having seen three men

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13 talking to [REDACTED] at the door of the Star Cafe earlier
14 in the evening and recognized these two women as being two
15 of the women who had been talking to [REDACTED] earlier in
16 the evening. Because of their apparent acquaintanceship with
17 [REDACTED] he did not place any particular significance
18 on their presence on the street at approximately 11:30 PM. b2c

19
20 Before going to get ORR, CARVER rode around
21 several blocks and out Main Street under the underpass and
22 back to town and estimated it was approximately 11:30 PM when
23 he went to get B. F. ORR at his home. Upon arriving at ORR's
24 home, he left WHEAT and [REDACTED] in the car and he walked b2c
25 through the garage to a back window in ORR's bedroom and
26 awakened ORR. He then returned to the car and waited for ORR
27 to get dressed and join them. He estimated that this took
28 approximately five or ten minutes.

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30 Upon arriving at the car, ORR suggested that
31 they have a cup of coffee. They proceeded to the Amoco Ser-
32 vice Station north of Poplarville on Route 11, arriving there
33 at approximately 11:45 PM. He does not recall the exact route
34 taken from ORR's to the Amoco Station but recalls definitely
35 that they did not pass the courthouse while en route.

36
37 They left the Amoco Service Station at approxi-
38 mately midnight and as they were leaving the station, the motor
39 of the car went dead. It took several minutes to get the car
40 started and they then proceeded to Poplarville, passing down
41 the main street in front of the courthouse. When passing the
42 courthouse, he noticed no unusual activity. Upon passing the
43 Star Cafe on the main street of Poplarville, he noticed that
44 [REDACTED] was motioning to him to stop. He stopped and b2c
45 [REDACTED] a woman had asked requesting that CARVER be asked
46 to come to the jail. [REDACTED] did not say that it was urgent.
47 He proceeded to the jail by turning left by the Masonic Temple.
48 After making the block, he proceeded up Main Street past the
49 courthouse and turned left on the north side of the courthouse
50 after which he made another left turn, coming in behind the
51 courthouse and in front of the hospital.

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53 Upon stopping, he saw several people on the
54 front walk of the hospital and to the best of his recollection,
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12 JOHN REYER, [REDACTED] boy, DEMPSE BURGE, ODELL
13 LOVELESS, and possibly [REDACTED] comprised the group stand- b7c
14 ing on the walk. He told M. J. WHEAT to get out and see
15 what they wanted. WHEAT, upon leaving the car, walked up
16 to the crowd and he, CARVER, heard someone say "They got
17 the nigger out of jail." CARVER asked "What nigger?" and
18 someone said "The nigger in jail." Someone in the crowd
19 said W. O. MOODY, the Sheriff, was on the way to the jail.
20 CARVER did not get out of the car until the Sheriff arrived.
21 Someone in CARVER's car asked if they were sure they had
22 gotten him. REYER said that they had because he walked down
23 the street where he could see them bring him out and put him
24 in the back seat of a car. CARVER asked what type car was
25 used and REYER said the car was blue and grey and someone
26 else in the crowd said it was blue and white. He thinks some-
27 one said the car was at the curb at the south entrance to the
28 courthouse. Later, he examined the spot where he had been
29 told the car was parked and he observed skid marks indicating
30 that the car had gone west on Pearl Street as it left the
31 courthouse. He also heard someone in the crowd make the state-
32 ment that four or five cars had been involved and that
33 these cars left the area traveling in all directions.
34

35 After the arrival of Sheriff MOODY, all of
36 the men in CARVER's car and those in the crowd on the side-
37 walk went with the Sheriff to the courthouse and entered it
38 through the south entrance. He noticed that the door at the
39 south entrance was partially open and he pointed out that
40 this door is normally locked. After entering the courthouse,
41 the Sheriff went to his office where he approached the cabinet
42 in his private office and upon looking in a drawer, said the
43 keys were gone. B. F. CRR then said that perhaps the keys
44 were upstairs.
45

46 CARVER saw blood on the steps outside of the
47 courthouse, a handprint in blood on the top step, and a blood
48 smear on the door at the south entrance to the courthouse. He
49 saw the window located on the north side of the Sheriff's
50 Office was open and pointed out that the lights in the Sheriff's
51 Office are normally left on and that this window which was open
52 could be seen from the street. He stated that at he had been
53 passing the courthouse earlier in the night, he had failed to
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notice whether or not this window was open in the Sheriff's Office.

After the Sheriff had determined that there were no keys in the cabinet in his office, everyone in the group went upstairs at which time the Sheriff unlocked the wooden door from the courtroom into the jail. The Sheriff proceeded halfway up the metal stairs leading to the upper portion of the jail and asked the prisoners what had happened. One of the prisoners replied that they had gotten PARKER. The Sheriff asked what had been done with the keys and the prisoners said they took the keys with them. CARVER did not observe the Sheriff entering the door at the top of the stairs. He did not notice any large quantity of blood in the jail itself.

After the Sheriff had obtained this information, everyone returned to the first floor of the courthouse at which time the Sheriff returned to his office. CARVER, [REDACTED] WHEAT, and ORR went outside the south entrance of the courthouse at which time B. F. ORR found the keys just outside the door. b7c

CARVER, ORR, R. J. WHEAT, and [REDACTED] then went to the City Hall in Poplarville where CARVER phoned the Sheriff in Purvis, Mississippi, HAM STARR at Lubberton, Mississippi, and BILL STEWART, County Prosecuting Attorney in Poplarville, to advise them of the abduction. CARVER then phoned the Sheriff's Office and was advised that they were preparing to ride the roads around Poplarville and he advised them that he would assist in this riding of the roads. b7c

CARVER, [REDACTED] and R. J. WHEAT then rode out on Highway 53 south to the first gravel road where they turned right and proceeded to the Wolf River bridge. They drove around the back roads in this vicinity for approximately one hour and then returned to Poplarville. In their coverage of the back roads, they noticed nothing pertinent to the abduction. b7c

When asked whether he would furnish a signed statement concerning his activities as outlined above, CARVER

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11 said that although the facts he furnished were true, he did
12 not desire to sign a statement until he had cleared with B.
13 F. ORR.

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15 When asked concerning his views on the abduction
16 of PARKER, CARVER said that he did not believe that it
17 was perpetrated by persons from Poplarville. He was unable
18 to furnish any definite opinion as to the locality in which
19 he believed the abductors might live. It was pointed out to
20 him that someone in the group apparently was familiar with
21 the location of the keys to the jail and he said that he had
22 also considered this fact and had concluded that there is a
23 good possibility that someone in Poplarville had either furnished
24 this information to a group or was involved in the mob
25 that took PARKER from the jail.

26
27 He said that in his opinion while the people
28 in Poplarville do not condone the activities of April 24, 1955,
29 he does not feel that they will cooperate in any investigation
30 since the identifying of the subjects might result in involving
31 someone from Poplarville. He said that he personally deplored
32 the abduction and felt very strongly that PARKER should have
33 been granted a fair trial. He added, however, that if PARKER
34 had been convicted and had subsequently been released as a
35 result of the reversal of such a conviction, he might feel that
36 some drastic action should be taken to punish PARKER.

37
38 He said that the information furnished by him
39 concerning his activities was complete and that nothing had
40 occurred that evening to the best of his recollection which
41 he had not reported. He said that the people of Poplarville
42 were not "worked up" over the alleged rape committed by PARKER
43 since neither PARKER nor the victim were local people. He
44 added that he had heard no discussion around town concerning
45 the possibility of a lynching and in his opinion if there
46 had been any such discussion or any plans made for a lynching,
47 he definitely would have received information concerning it.

48
49 CARVER stated that it is a common practice for [redacted] b7c
50 and R. J. WHEAT to ride with him on his rounds
51 and it is also common for him to notify B. F. ORR when he
52 observes any suspicious strangers in town. He emphatically
53 denied that he had any indication that there would be trouble
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at the courthouse and stated positively that the only reason he got ORR was the fact that he had seen two strange men on Julia Street.

Near the completion of the interview of April 27, 1959, with SA's [redacted] and [redacted] CARVER said that there were two items of information which he had failed to furnish. One was the fact that immediately prior to going to ORR's house at approximately 11:30 PM, on April 24, 1959, he observed a 1953 or 1954 blue and gray Chevrolet on Main Street near the courthouse. This car did not have a license plate and was occupied by three or more males. He was unable to state whether the car was blue on top or blue on the bottom, whether it was a two-door or a four-door, or furnish any additional descriptive data on the car. He also said that he could not furnish any descriptive data concerning the occupants, their physical characteristics, or their wearing apparel. He denied that the seeing of this car was his reason for going to ORR's house. CARVER was questioned in great detail concerning this car and its occupants and the possibility that there may have been additional cars seen by him in the vicinity of the courthouse. He denied that there were any additional cars and stated that he was unable to provide any data concerning the description of the Chevrolet or its occupants. b7c

The other item of information recalled by CARVER was the fact that when he arrived at the courthouse at approximately 12:15 AM, on April 25, 1959, someone in the crowd standing on the walk in front of the hospital made the comment that a red and white car was in the group of cars believed to have been used by the mob which abducted PARKER. He was unable to furnish any further information regarding this car.

CARVER stated that he did not intentionally withhold the two items of information mentioned above but they had merely slipped his mind during the interviews.

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11 C. BOLIVAR F. ORR

12 BOLIVAR F. ORR advised that he has been the
13 Marshal in Poplarville, Mississippi, for approximately twenty-
14 five years. He was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's
15 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and on May 1, 1959, b7c
16 by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

17 Mr. ORR furnished the following information:

18 At approximately 11:30 PM, April 24, 1959, the
19 Night Marshal, "PETE" CARVER, came to his home, awakened him,
20 and told him that he had observed two strangers in Poplarville
21 and thought they should be checked out. [REDACTED] and b7c
22 R. J. WHEAT were with CARVER when he came to his home. He
23 dressed and joined CARVER, WHEAT and [REDACTED] and suggested
24 they go get a cup of coffee. They drove down the back road
25 north of Poplarville to Route 11, where they stopped at the
26 Amoco Gas Station for coffee.

27 Upon arrival at the Amoco Station, he noticed
28 there were a number of teen-age boys and also some additional
29 males who were strangers to him. He paid no particular at-
30 tention to these people and could furnish no descriptive data.
31 Upon leaving the Amoco Station, he, CARVER [REDACTED] and b7c
32 WHEAT drove back to Poplarville and down the main street. As
33 they were passing the Star Cafe, [REDACTED] flagged them
34 down and told them there was a disturbance at the jail. They
35 turned around and proceeded toward the courthouse. He pointed
36 out they did not rush back to the courthouse, since he felt
37 that inasmuch as he had no prisoners in the jail the distur-
38 bance was no concern of his. When they arrived at the rear
39 of the courthouse, there were a number of people standing in
40 front of the hospital. The only person he recalls is JIM
41 RAY, who was "doing a lot of talking," and one nurse said
42 she thought they took someone out of the jail and "went every
43 which way." When asked the identity of this nurse, ORR stated
44 he could not recall. He did recall that [REDACTED] informed they
45 had arrived only three or four minutes after the incident. ORR
46 told CARVER they would do nothing until the arrival of Sheriff
47 MOODY. They waited ten or fifteen minutes for the sheriff to
48 arrive.

49 Upon the arrival of the sheriff, the exact time

of which he does not recall, the group, consisting of five to ten people, proceeded to the courthouse. The outside door of the south entrance to the courthouse was open. They went to the Sheriff's Office and turned on the light in the office. The Sheriff looked for the keys, did not find them and then proceeded up the stairway to the jail. The Sheriff opened the wooden door leading to the jail. ORR stated he believed this door was not locked but secured by a bolt, which was opened by the Sheriff with a lever. The Sheriff asked the Negro prisoners what had happened and one of the prisoners told him; however, ORR does not remember either the questions or the admissions. They remained at the jail for just a few seconds and then returned to the Sheriff's Office. As ORR was leaving the courthouse, he found the keys to the jail on the outside steps leading to the south entrance. He gave the keys to the Sheriff and then proceeded to the City Hall where he made telephone calls to Sheriff HICKMAN, Purvis, Mississippi; Marshal SLADE at Lumberton, Mississippi; County Attorney WILLIAM STEWART to advise them of the abduction. Sometime later, after Sheriff HICKMAN had arrived in Poplarville, ORR went with him to check the roads. He recalls they searched the roads in the vicinity where the alleged rape occurred and checked numerous side roads north of Poplarville. This search continued for between three and four hours and during the search nothing of value was observed.

ORR said that from his observation at the courthouse and the amount of blood he observed, it was his opinion that either PARKER or someone in the mob was seriously injured and was bleeding profusely. He said that from the appearance of the trail of blood he believed that PARKER had been dragged all the way, since the trail of blood was approximately 2" wide and in some places was a steady trail for a distance of 7' to 8'.

ORR said that before going to the City Hall and after leaving the Sheriff's Office, he walked the street at the south entrance of the courthouse and on this road leading from the courthouse side of South Pearl Street near the entrance of the courthouse, east to Main Street, and then turning south. He said there were skid marks near the intersection of South Pearl Street and Main Street indicating the car made this turn at a high rate of speed. He pointed out

that although in all probability he was on Main Street near the time of the abduction he does not recall seeing any cars proceeding south on Main Street. ORR said sometime during the evening JOHN REYER had mentioned that four or five cars were involved in the abduction and someone had said that a pickup truck may have been involved. He stated he could furnish no additional information concerning the cars or the truck.

Mr. ORR stated he has given instructions to PETE CARVER that whenever he observes any strangers in town or thinks that a crime has or will be committed he should immediately come to get him. He pointed out that CARVER is his nephew and he does not desire that he become involved in any investigation where there is a possibility he might be injured. He said it is not unusual for CARVER to come get him while he is on duty at night, although it has not happened very often because there have been very few occasions which CARVER felt any investigation should be conducted at night. He said the only reason given by CARVER for calling him on the night of April 24, 1959, was the fact he had seen two strangers in town and no mention was made by CARVER of the possibility of anyone attempting to break into the courthouse. When asked whether any attempt was made to locate the two strangers, ORR stated no such attempt was made and they were forgotten in the light of the incident at the courthouse.

ORR said that the abduction came as a complete surprise to him since he had heard no discussion around town about such a possibility and he did not feel the people in Poplarville were particularly concerned over the alleged rape since neither PARKER nor the victim were local residents.

ORR pointed out that he did not make any effort to check the courthouse since the arrival of PARKER from Jackson, Mississippi, since he had received no request from the Sheriff to do so. He said that if he had known that an attempt was being made to abduct PARKER, he would not have attempted to prevent it since the incarceration of PARKER was a matter for the Sheriff to handle and was no concern of his.

He added that for this reason he made no effort to hurry to the courthouse when he heard there was a disturbance and made no effort to look for the shooters until

after the Sheriff had arrived.

On May 8, 1959, when interviewed by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], ORR volunteered that he knew nothing about the circumstances under which PARKER was abducted, but stated that had he been aware PARKER was being abducted on April 24, 1959, he would have not gone any where near the vicinity of the jail or courthouse. He explained that it is not his duty to protect the prisoners at the jail, that this duty was the Sheriff's, and that he did not want to get involved in anything having to do with an abduction. b7c

D. ROBERT JAMES WHEAT

ROBERT JAMES WHEAT was interviewed on April 27, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was interviewed on April 28, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. WHEAT advised that he is employed as an instructor at the Pearl River Junior College, Poplarville, where he teaches automobile mechanics. He has been so employed for approximately eleven years. He is thirty-six years of age, married, and has two children. WHEAT furnished the following information concerning his activities on the night of April 24, 1959, and the early morning of April 25, 1959:

He went to work at approximately 6:00 AM and went to the Star Cafe on Main Street in Poplarville for a coffee break at approximately 9:00 PM. [REDACTED] went to the Star Cafe with him in his, [REDACTED], automobile, which is a 1956 Dodge four-door sedan. He was gone from work for approximately twenty minutes and during this period he met numerous individuals whom he knew but does not recall meeting PETE CARVER. He returned to work and remained there until approximately 11:00 PM. When PETE CARVER called for him, he went with CARVER and [REDACTED] and drove to Poplarville. He has ridden with PETE CARVER for one or seven years on an average of two or three times a week. He does not have any police powers, but merely rides with him for amusement.

When they arrived in Poplarville, they passed two middleaged women standing on the corner of Main Street near the Mississippi Power Company. CARVER mentioned that he had seen two strange men on the streets and there was a possibility that the two women might possibly be trying to spot for a burglary. He assumed that CARVER was of the opinion that the two women and the two men he had seen previously might be connected in some way with some criminal activity.

At about 11:30 PM, CARVER drove to the home of B. F. ORR. WHEAT does not recall CARVER mentioning any reason for getting ORR. WHEAT said that there was considerable traffic on Main Street prior to 11:30 PM and also on the street leading to the college; however, he did not observe any strange cars. He explained this by stating that while he recognizes the cars of most people in Poplarville, he does not recognize

the cars of the students and he felt that the cars that he did not recognize on the night of the 24th may have belonged to students attending a dance at the college. He definitely did not notice any cars with groups of men in them. Prior to picking up ORR at his residence, CARVER drove down Main Street past the courthouse and WHEAT did not notice any unusual activity.

Upon their arrival at the residence of B. F. ORR, CARVER got out of the car, went through the screen to the window of ORR's bedroom. WHEAT and [REDACTED] remained in the car and did not hear any conversation between CARVER and ORR. CARVER returned to the car and sat with WHEAT and [REDACTED] for approximately five minutes waiting for ORR to dress and join them. b7c

WHEAT, although he has ridden with CARVER on an average of two or three times a week for approximately seven years, cannot recall CARVER ever going to ORR's residence to secure his assistance or to confer with him. On a number of occasions CARVER has picked up ORR on the streets of Poplarville and ORR has ridden with them and on a few occasions CARVER has made telephone calls to ORR to secure advice or assistance.

When ORR joined CARVER, [REDACTED] and WHEAT in CARVER's car, ORR suggested that they go and get a cup of coffee. They drove to the Amoco Station approximately a mile north of Poplarville on Route 11 for coffee. He does not recall the route taken by CARVER in proceeding from ORR's residence to the Amoco Station. They remained at the Amoco Station for between twenty and twenty-five minutes and during this time they discussed politics and no mention was made as to the reason for picking up B. F. ORR. They left the Amoco Station at approximately 11:30 P.M. Shortly after leaving the station, the car stalled and they were unable to start it again for approximately two or three minutes. They then drove to Poplarville and down the Main Street past the courthouse. WHEAT did not notice any commotion or any unusual activity or traffic around the courthouse building. b7c

As they drove past the Court Cafe on Main Street,

WHEAT saw [REDACTED] standing in the doorway of the cafe waving at them. He told CARVER that [REDACTED] was trying to get their attention, whereupon CARVER stopped the car and backed up to the cafe. [REDACTED] told CARVER that a woman had called and told her that there was a commotion at the jail, or words to that effect. She may possibly have stated that the prisoners were fighting; however, WHEAT could not recall just what she had said. WHEAT pointed out that BESSIE LAVIS quite often takes calls for CARVER since she is employed as a clean-up woman at the Star Cafe and remains there all night. b7c

After receiving the message from [REDACTED] CARVER went around the block to the left returning to Main Street, went past the courthouse, turned left and proceeded to the rear of the courthouse. When he drove up in back of the courthouse, people were coming off the porch of the Ford River County Hospital. WHEAT got out of the car and asked a nurse what had happened. The nurse did not answer but JOHN REYER, who was in the group, said that he thought they got "that nigger" out of jail. One of the other occupants of the car then got out of the car and at about that time Sheriff MOODY arrived on the scene. b7c

WHEAT identified the persons in the group coming from the hospital as [REDACTED] who had been visiting [REDACTED] a patient in the hospital; nurse DORIS [REDACTED] LOVELESS; [REDACTED] who had been visiting [REDACTED] father in the hospital; and [REDACTED]. There was also a heavy-set man [REDACTED] who had been visiting a patient in the hospital home. The identity of this individual was not known to WHEAT. There were two or three cars parked in front of the hospital when CARVER arrived. b7c

Sheriff MOODY arrived at the scene between two and five minutes after the arrival of CARVER, WHEAT, and [REDACTED] and during this period there was some conversation; however, WHEAT could not recall the exact comments. Approximately five or ten minutes elapsed from the time the Sheriff arrived until the group went to the Sheriff's office. WHEAT recalls that the Sheriff stood in his car in front of the hospital and that he asked him, WHEAT, what had happened, whereupon WHEAT told him that they had arrived just shortly before the Sheriff and he did not know what had happened. b7c

but he thought that "they got that nigger."

WHEAT, Sheriff MOODY, [REDACTED], CARVER, and ORR entered the courthouse at the south entrance. It is possible that JOHN REYER and [REDACTED] accompanied them; however, WHEAT does not specifically recall their being with them. The door at the south entrance of the courthouse was open and WHEAT saw a considerable amount of blood on the outside steps leading to the entrance and on the floor just inside the entrance. He also saw blood on the floor from the entrance to the door of the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff unlocked the door to his office and WHEAT noticed that the light was on in this office. The Sheriff commented that the window was open in his office, this window being the window on the north side of his office which opens on the front porch of the courthouse. The Sheriff then went to the back room in his office and looked in a file cabinet that was already open. He put his hand into the drawer and said that the keys were gone. b7c

Sheriff MOODY, B. F. ORR, PETER CHAPMAN, [REDACTED] and WHEAT then went up to the jail and the Sheriff and WHEAT went into the jail. Sheriff MOODY unlocked the front door of the jail and turned on a light near the door. As near as he can recall, there were no lights on in the jail when they arrived. b7c

Sheriff MOODY asked the prisoners what had happened and one of the Negro prisoners said that they had come in and "got that boy." The Sheriff asked which one, and they said "PARKER." Someone in the group asked if they got the right one and one of the Negro prisoners said, "Yes, uh." Sheriff MOODY asked if the prisoners recognized any of the persons who broke into the jail and they said that they did not because they wore masks. The Sheriff asked if they called any names or if any of the prisoners could recognize their voices and they said that they could not. He then asked how many persons were involved and one of the prisoners said that there were close to a dozen and they heard more out in the courtroom.

There was blood on the floor from the jail to the Sheriff's Office; however, there did not appear to be a

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10 large amount of blood and it appeared to WHEAT from a trail
11 tion of the blood that PARKER was dragged part of the way and
12 walked part of the way since there was not a continuous trail
13 of blood.
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15 The group returned to the Sheriff's Office and
16 Sheriff MOODY called his son and JESSE MILLINO, Mississippi
17 Highway Safety Patrol, notifying them that PARKER had been
18 taken from the jail. At this time WHEAT noticed that JOHN REYER
19 and [REDACTED] were present. WHEAT stayed at the Sheriff's
20 Office until 7:00 or 8:00 AM, April 25, 1959. During this
21 period he tried to call JAMES WARD of the Jackson Daily News b7c
22 but could not reach him. He also called the Hattiesburg Ameri-
23 can and notified the person answering the phone of the fact
24 that someone had taken PARKER from the jail.
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26 A number of people came to the Sheriff's Office
27 during the night, but he could not recall who they were or
28 when they arrived. At some time during that night, Sheriff
29 MOODY, the son of the Sheriff, went to the scene of the al-
30 leged rape to see if PARKER was there and a number of patrol-
31 men of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol searched the area
32 in the vicinity of Poplarville. During the night, Sheriff
33 MOODY asked REYER what kind of a car was used by the persons
34 taking PARKER from the jail and REYER said that it was a four-
35 door car, but he did not know the make or color.
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37 WHEAT said that shortly after the indictment
38 of PARKER he heard several people say that they thought that
39 they should "kill that nigger" or that they should shoot him
40 but he did not pay any attention to those remarks and he does
41 not now recall who made these statements or the circumstances
42 under which they were made. He pointed out the possibility
43 that they might have been made by students at the Pearl River
44 Junior College.
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46 He said that since the time immediately follow-
47 ing the indictment he had heard no discussion around Poplarville
48 concerning the possibility of any violence and he does not be-
49 lieve that the persons who took PARKER from the jail were from
50 Poplarville. He added, however, that in his opinion someone
51 in Poplarville had furnished information to the group concerned
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the location of the keys to the jail and the layout of the courthouse building. He said that one reason he believed this to be true was the fact that when he and Sheriff MOODY first arrived at the Sheriff's Office, no papers were strewn about and it did not appear that any search had been made for the keys. It was his opinion that whoever broke into the Sheriff's Office knew exactly where the keys were and how to get to them.

WHEAT said that he positively did not have any information whatsoever indicating that anyone had any information to the effect that PARKER was to be broken out of the jail. He added that at no time did he hear anyone state that they suspected any individual of being involved in the abduction of PARKER. He added that he had heard a number of theories advanced as to who was responsible for the abduction, one of these theories being that it was planned by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and another being that the persons involved were from Natchez, Mississippi. He stated, however, that as far as he knew, these were merely personal opinions expressed by various individuals and were not based on any facts available to them. He said he could not recall the identity of the persons advancing these theories.

He said that he is positive that there was no discussion among PETE CRAWFORD, B. F. CRAWFORD and himself as to the possibility of a mob attempting to get PARKER out of jail. He added that he knows of no one who might plan such a jail break through a feeling of animosity toward the Sheriff or in an attempt to embarrass the Sheriff or his department. b7c

... Poplarville, Mississippi, approximately 1940-1941, high school and receives his mail at Poplarville, Mississippi. He teaches at Pearl River High School, no longer working there now.

"Poplarville, Miss.
April 27, 1958.

"I, [redacted], make the following voluntary statement to [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the F. B. I. No threats, promises or anything else has been used to get me to make this statement. I realize this statement may be used in a court of law.

"I am employed as a [redacted] at
College, Poplarville, Miss. My employment was
provided by [redacted] from [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] at approximately [redacted] on April 26,
1959 while on a coffee break I met Harold Gene Carver,
the night marshal of Poplarville, Miss. and told him
that I would be through work at 11 P.M. At approxi-
mately 11 P.M. Carver came to the college and picked
up R. J. Wheat and myself. The three of us are close
friends and for about a year or more we had been
riden with Carver on his rounds two or three times a
week. I think it is general knowledge around Poplar-
ville that we follow this custom.

"On the night of April 21, 1968, he drove from the college past the courthouse in Nashville

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13 down the Main Street at which time we saw two women
14 standing on the corner where the Miss. Power Co. is
15 located. This was at about 11:15 P.M. Carver sta-
16 ted he had seen these women downtown before and that
17 he thought they might be connected in some way with a
18 planned burglary. Carver did not give any indication
19 he knew the identity of these two women. I did not
20 know the two women that were on the corner and I have
21 not been told their names. After we saw the two women,
22 Carver said he was going to the home of B. F. Orr and
23 wake him up. We then went to the home of Orr and Car-
24 ver went in and waked Orr. I did not go in was Orr
25 house but waited outside. When Orr came out we all
26 four went to the Amoco Service Station just north of
27 Poplarville on Highway 11. We left the Amoco Service
28 Station at about 12 midnight and drove down the main
29 street of Poplarville. When we passed the courthouse
30 I did not notice any activity and I cannot recall
31 that any cars were parked at the southside of the
32 courthouse.

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34 "As we passed the Star Cafe, [REDACTED]
35 said a woman had called by phone and said there was
36 a disturbance at the jail. We immediately were proved
37 the block and proceeded to the back of the courthouse
38 and in front of the hospital. We arrived at the back
39 of the courthouse at approximately 12:15 A.M. As we
40 got out of the car we noticed John Royer, Frank Wheat
41 and a man named [REDACTED] standing in the parking area
42 in front of the hospital. Royer said I think they got
43 that 'nigger' or words to that effect. In describing
44 what had happened one of the three said 'they' were
45 there only a few minutes. There was considerably
46 more conversation, however, I do not recall what was
47 said. I do not recall hearing how many or what type
48 cars were used. I would estimate that we talked for
49 10 to 15 minutes during which time Sheriff Roney ar-
50 rived.

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52 "After the arrival of Sheriff Roney, Mr. J.
53 J. Wheat, B. F. Orr, Pete Carver and myself went to
54 the Sheriff's Office in the courthouse. Others may
55 possibly have gone with us but I cannot definitely
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recall this fact. The Sheriff unlocked his office and as we entered the office the Sheriff looked around and said 'I wonder how they got in.' He then went to a file cabinet and opened the drawer. We then all went upstairs to the jail. I believe the door was locked and that the Sheriff opened the wooden door to the jail. The Sheriff then opened the jail door to the bull pen and went in to talk to the prisoners. The rest of us did not enter the bull pen. I heard the Sheriff ask the prisoners how many men broke in. One of the prisoners said eight or nine. The Sheriff then asked if the prisoners recognized any of the men and the prisoners stated the men wore masks and they did not recognize anyone. I do not recall the Sheriff asking any further questions. The lights was off on the landing just inside the entrance to the jail and I did not observe any blood or evidence of a struggle.

"We then all returned to the Sheriff's Office on the first floor at which time the Sheriff said we should get out and check the roads. He asked if anyone there could identify anyone of the men who broke in and no one answered. To my knowledge two cars left the courthouse to make a search. One car was driven by George Moody, the Sheriff's son, which I think went north on Route 11. I went with Pete Carver and E. F. Orr toward Gilespie, Miss. on Route 53. A short distance from town we turned off on side roads. We searched the side roads until approximately 2:30 A.M. on 4-25-59 when we returned to the Sheriff's Office. The search did not produce anything of value. I left the Sheriff's Office and went to the hospital where I went to work. He was asleep so I left the hospital and did not know where I arrived about 2:45 A.M. 4-25-59. b7c

"I have read the above statement of this and 5 other pages. This statement is true to the best of my knowledge contains all the information that I have concerning the breakin at the Leflore County Jail, Poplarville, Miss. on the night of 4-24-59. I

have initialed the first five pages and all corrections.

/s/ [REDACTED]

"Witnesses:

[REDACTED] Sp. Agent, F.B.I., New Orleans, La.,

[REDACTED] F.B.I., New Orleans, La. 4-27-59

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On May 4, 1959, [REDACTED] was interviewed by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at which time he admitted that he had misinformed Agents when he gave the signed statement as to the route that was taken from the Star Cafe to the hospital. He declined to furnish further information at this time. However, on May 8, 1959, he advised that from further recollection and discussion of the circumstances with R. J. WHIT, he now recalled that after [REDACTED] B. F. ORR, and PETE CARVER had been flagged down by [REDACTED] in front of the Star Cafe, they actually turned [REDACTED] since the block around Shrock's Western Auto Store instead of right as he had previously mentioned.

F. [REDACTED] Poplarville, Mississippi, was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was interviewed on April 26 and 29, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] furnished the following information concerning his activities on the night of April 24, 1959, and the morning of April 25, 1959:

He went to a show in Poplarville which ended at approximately 9:00 PM. He then went home for a few minutes and proceeded to the Pearl River County Hospital arriving there between 9:30 PM and 10:00 PM. His purpose in going to the hospital was to visit his [REDACTED] and stay with him until the arrival of his [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was working at the Pearl River Junior High School and his wife were also staying with [REDACTED] and his wife, [REDACTED] were visiting [REDACTED] father, who was a patient in the same room [REDACTED].

At about 11:45 PM or 11:50 PM, [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] room, which is located near the rear of the hospital, when [REDACTED] motioned for him to come to the front of the hospital. She told him that somebody was fighting over at the jail. He went to the front door of the hospital where he heard someone shouting for help. He said that the shout was not real loud. The front door of the hospital was open and he could tell the shouts were coming from the Pearl River County Courthouse Building. When he reached the front door of the hospital, he noticed that [REDACTED] a nurse at the hospital, DIMPLE BURGE, a nurse at the hospital, JOSEPH RAYNER and his wife, and JOHN RAYNER were in the lobby of the hospital. One of the nurses, believed by him to be a Mrs. FURSE, said she was going to call the police as someone might be putting a drunk in jail.

When [REDACTED] was standing at the front door of the hospital, he noticed that there was a car parked near the south entrance to the courthouse on South Pearl Street [REDACTED] west. He could see the front portion of [REDACTED] car only and was unable to state the make, color, type or model of the car. He also could not say whether there were any occupants in the

car. [redacted] stood at the hospital door for approximately one minute when he went back to the water fountain in the hospital corridor and then returned to his uncle's room. About four or five minutes later, he walked [redacted] to the front door and went out on the hospital porch with [redacted] and JOHN REYER. When he arrived on the porch the shouting had ceased, but he noticed that the above mentioned car was still parked on South Pearl Street. He also saw another car drive up in front of the south entrance to the courthouse and park on the southside of South Pearl Street headed east. This car parked slightly off the street in front of a vacant lot between the Poplarville Furniture Company and Poplarville Auto Parts. He saw a man get out of this car and walk toward the south entrance to the courthouse. He was unable to state whether this man went into the courthouse building from his position on the porch he could not observe this entrance. He was unable to furnish any description concerning the car with the exception of the fact that it was dark in color. He was also unable to furnish any description whatsoever of the male who alighted from this car.

[redacted] and JOHN REYER left the porch of the hospital and walked across Julia Street to a point near a bush located at the southwest corner of the courthouse.

[redacted] stood on the porch for two or three minutes and then went back into the hospital. As he was going into the hospital, he noticed that [redacted] and [redacted] were starting back toward the hospital. Before [redacted] re-entered the hospital he saw the car which had been parked near the courthouse entrance start up and proceed west on South Pearl Street. At approximately the same time, the car which was headed east on South Pearl started out and proceeded east on South Pearl Street. He does not recall seeing any car proceed north on Julia Street between the hospital and the courthouse. [redacted] was standing on the porch, he did not hear any shouting or cry for help and did not observe any men leaving the courthouse.

[redacted] remained in the hospital lobby for [redacted] minutes and during this time [redacted] and [redacted] re-entered the hospital and [redacted] said he saw a "nigger" in the car. He stated that all of the men were masked and that they dragged the "nigger" from the crowd and pushed him in a car. Others present when [redacted] made these

statements were [redacted] and JOSEPH REYER and his wife. According to [redacted] one or more of the nurses in the hospital may have been present, but he does not definitely recall.

During the above conversation, either JOHN REYER or [redacted] said that the car in which the men had placed the "nigger" went west on South Pearl Street.

[redacted] requested that the interview be terminated because of personal commitments and it be continued on the morning of April 29, 1960.

On April 29, 1960 [redacted] furnished the following information:

About five minutes after he had re-entered the hospital, he looked out the front door and saw B. F. ORR, "PETE" CARVER, R. J. WHEAT, and [redacted] drive up in front of the hospital. He walked out to the car along with several others who had been in the hospital and he believed that either JOHN REYER or [redacted] said to B. F. ORR "they got the nigger." He does not recall any other conversation at this time. After about five minutes, Sheriff [redacted] pulled up in front of the hospital, parked his car in front of the south entrance and went into the courthouse accompanied by [redacted] B. F. ORR, PETE CARVER, JOHN REYER and [redacted]. The outside door at the south entrance of the courthouse was open and the group, after entering the courthouse, proceeded to the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff went to a back door in his office and remarked that the keys were gone. [redacted] noticed that there was blood on the steps leading to the courthouse and in the hallway near the Sheriff's Office. The group went up the stairway inside the courthouse and the Sheriff unlocked the door leading into the jail. The lights were off in the jail and the Sheriff was the only one who entered the jail, the rest stopping at the door. The Sheriff asked the Negro prisoners what had happened and one of the prisoners said that a crowd had taken RAYMOND out. The Sheriff asked how many were in the crowd and one of the prisoners said eight or nine. He asked if they knew what had happened to the Negro and one prisoner said they must have taken him with them. There were also some remarks made about the men wearing masks. It appeared to [redacted] that one of the Negro prisoners did practically

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all of the talking. The group then went back down to the Sheriff's Office.

[REDACTED] remained at the Sheriff's Office for approximately ten minutes, during which time the Sheriff was making phone calls notifying various individuals of the abduction. [REDACTED] then returned to the hospital. He does not recall how long he stayed at the hospital, but a short time later he drove in his father's car, a 1959 Plymouth, four door, faded light green in color, to his home. To the best of his recollection he arrived home sometime between 1:30 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. A short time later he returned to the courthouse and upon arriving he noticed that various members of the Mississippi Highway Patrol were there. He went to the hospital and then walked over and joined the crowd outside the courthouse entrance. He remained there until approximately 3:00 a.m. when he went home.

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While standing with the group in front of courthouse entrance, County Attorney WILLIAM STUBBS told [REDACTED] that the FBI would probably be investigating this case and [REDACTED] should be sure to tell the truth about what he had seen. [REDACTED] said this remark was not necessarily directed to him since there were other persons standing around when the remark was made.

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[REDACTED] said that in his opinion the local people from Poplarville were not involved in the abduction. He said he felt this was true since the local people had not been discussing the case at any length and he had heard no comments as to whether PARKER was guilty. He added that the local people were not acquainted with the rape victim and the killing was not running high in Poplarville. He said he has obtained no information since the abduction which would in any way indicate who was responsible for it. He said he did not approve of the action taken by the mob, but refused to say whether he desired to see them identified and apprehended. He also refused to furnish a signed statement.

14 G. WILLIAM H. STEWART

16 WILLIAM H. STEWART, Attorney at Law and County
17 Attorney for Pearl River County, Poplarville, Mississippi, who
18 resides in Poplarville, was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by
19 SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was inter-
20 viewed on April 29, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
21 He was again interviewed on May 1, 1959, by
22 SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. STEWART furnished
23 the following information:

25 STEWART first heard about this case when he re-
26 ceived a telephone call at about 1:00 A. M., April 25, 1959,
27 from PETE CARVER, Night Marshal at Poplarville, who stated he
28 was calling from the City Hall. STEWART lives about two blocks
29 from the City Hall and immediately put on some clothes over
30 his pajamas and proceeded to the City Hall.

32 Upon arrival at the City Hall, he noted that
33 B. F. ORR, Day Marshal, PETE CARVER, Night Marshal, and A. J.
34 WHEAT were at the City Hall.

36 Upon arrival, they told him someone had "broken
37 the nigger out", and there was some blood on the floor and
38 steps of the County Courthouse. He asked if anyone had seen
39 it, and they told him JOHN REYER and [REDACTED] had been there.

41 According to STEWART, CARVER told Mrs. DORIS
42 BURGE, a nurse at the Pearl River County Hospital, [REDACTED] told
43 him of the incident by means of a telephone call to [REDACTED]
44 waitress at the Star Cafe on Main Street in Poplarville,
45 requesting that [REDACTED] notify CARVER when she saw him, as
46 it was common practice for PETE CARVER to stop by and pick up
47 messages at periodic intervals from [REDACTED].

49 STEWART said that shortly thereafter, the
50 group went to the courthouse a few blocks distant. Upon
51 arrival at the courthouse, STEWART noted that Sheriff W.
52 OSBORNE MOODY was there, as well as [REDACTED] [REDACTED],
53 [REDACTED] JOHN REYER, and a [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. STEWART looked
54 over the scene, was advised that one or more cars of the
55 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol had reported to the scene
56 and were out searching for the mob.

He first questioned JOHN REYER inasmuch as he had known REYER for a long time and has represented REYER and various members of REYER's family in a number of law suits.

REYER said he was in front of the hospital when he heard a "ruckus" at the jail which is located directly across the street from the hospital in the upper floors of the County Courthouse. He walked over that way and actually got there in time to see them put the "nigger" in the right rear door on the back seat of a car which was parked by the curb at the south side of the courthouse. REYER described this car as being a four-door car and as being two tone in color. He was unable to state whether the car was shiny and new or old and muddy or to give any other description regarding the make or model of the car nor could he furnish any information as to whether or not the car bore a license plate. He could not say how many people got into the car. REYER did state "the boy" was struggling while they put him in the car and was giving a good account of himself. STEWART wanted to know if REYER could identify any of the people involved in this incident and REYER told him he was unable to identify any of the people. REYER told him there was no conversation among the members of the mob and none of the mob said anything to REYER. When the car which had been parked at the south entrance to the courthouse headed in a westerly direction pulled away from the curb, REYER stated it was toward Bogalusa.

STEWART pointed out that he understood by this remark that the car had headed in a westerly direction. REYER told STEWART he estimated there were about four to six men in the mob. He stated that he did not know how many cars had pulled away from the courthouse at about that time. REYER said the men had on masks and some were wearing handkerchiefs over the lower portion of their faces as masks. He asked REYER if anyone else might have seen the mob and REYER said no.

STEWART wanted to know how REYER was at the time and REYER informed him he had just brought his sister-in-law, JOE REYER, to the hospital, which fact was verified by STEWART.

[REDACTED] was present in the hall of the house in front of the Sheriff's Office along with JOHN REYER while STEWART questioned REYER. STEWART also questioned [REDACTED]

at the same time he questioned REYER and then questioned [REDACTED] some in addition to this. During the interrogation while the two individuals were standing together, JOHN REYER did most of the talking and [REDACTED] continued to verify the information which had been furnished by JOHN REYER. [REDACTED] told STEWART he was present in the area because he had been visiting his uncle who was a patient in the hospital. b7c

[REDACTED] said he was near the mob when the mob came out of the courthouse, but was not as close as JOHN REYER, and STEWART got the impression that [REDACTED] was standing about 25-30 feet behind JOHN REYER at a point at or near a large tree or bush which is located at the southwest corner of the courthouse when the incident happened and JOHN REYER had been much closer or approximately 10-20 feet from the sidewalk leading out of the south entrance of the courthouse and that both of these would have had a good opportunity to observe any person or vehicle, active or moving, in the area at that time. b7c

STEWART volunteered the information that both JOHN REYER and [REDACTED] were wise as to the ways of the world; that they did not want to identify any of the mob; however, he did not think that they could make an identification. He thinks they would have been reluctant to make an identification if they could have made one.

STEWART went to the hospital for a short time and again questioned [REDACTED] and JOHN REYER and was convinced that they could not make an identification. At this time, he impressed upon them the importance of telling the truth to the FBI in this case when the FBI came into the area. b7c

JOHN REYER did not tell STEWART how many cars were seen or noted at the time the mob left the scene. [REDACTED] told him there were about three cars leaving in three different directions immediately after PARKER was placed in the car, south of the courthouse, and he did not recall exactly who told him this, but he is of the opinion that he got this information from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told him he did not go to see any license plates and could, therefore, not give him any information as to a description of the license plates or as to whether or not there were license plates on the vehicles involved. b7c

STEWART pointed out he had not questioned either of these individuals extensively because he was making a quick investigation in an effort to determine if he could find anyone who could give him an immediate identification of any of the members of the mob.

STEWART also talked with the [redacted] boy and ascertained that he did not have anything that would help in identifying any of the mob. He did not talk to [redacted] and would not know whether or not she was in a position to have made any pertinent observations. b7c

STEWART then went up to the jail and talked to the Negro prisoners. They told him generally that a masked mob had gone into the jail and had taken PARKER.

A white woman prisoner, whose name was not recalled at the time by STEWART, told him she saw and heard some more men in the courtroom and from this rather vague information that there were more men involved than the men that went into the jail cell. She pointed out that [redacted] school [redacted] out a [redacted] bulb located on [redacted] first [redacted] in [redacted] and [redacted] [redacted] that part of the building. b2

STEWART talked to [redacted] who told him he was a veteran of [redacted] in the bull pen section of the jail and was [redacted] wooden door. He saw the first masked man come into the jail and knew what was taking place immediately and did not look at them and went back to his bunk in [redacted] that he could not be a witness. STEWART did not question [redacted] to any observation [redacted] might have made while looking out of the south windows of the jail during the departure of any of the vehicles or persons connected with the mob. b7D

While in the jail, STEWART made photographs with his Polaroid camera of blood stains on the courthouse floor; the steps, sidewalks, and curb at the south side of the courthouse. He recalled these blood spots were not large pools of blood, but were smears and drops of blood. He gave these photographs to GEORGE VAUGHT MOODY, son of Sheriff MOODY. STEWART does not object to these photographs being used by the FBI in connection with this investigation.

STEWART then went to the hospital and talked to nurses DIMPLE BURGE, [REDACTED] and ODELL LOVELESS, all at the nurse station at the left side of the lobby of the hospital. While he was talking to them, [REDACTED] another nurse, came up. b7c

STEWART asked the nurses if they had seen the people and they told their story about hearing the boy falling over in the jail and thought perhaps someone wanted a doctor. Then shortly thereafter they could hear them whacking the boy at which time Miss DIMPLE BURGE ran to the telephone and called Sheriff MOODY, JEWEL ALFORD, and then placed a call for BILL CARVER at the Star Cafe.

The nurses stated they went out on the porch of the hospital, but claimed they were unable to identify any of the men or cars involved.

STEWART ascertained that [REDACTED] had looked out of the bathroom window after hearing the call from the jail. b7c

STEWART then had coffee with the nurses at the hospital kitchen, and he asked them again if they could make an identification of the cars and persons in the mob and they convinced him they were unable to make an identification of the persons in the mob or any of the cars. He did not question them closely as to the number of cars involved or the directions in which these cars had proceeded. He did make it a point to point out to the nurses that they would be questioned and requestioned and told them how important it was to tell the truth and they agreed to do this.

The only other person STEWART contacted who might be able to furnish information of value to the case was a young fellow named [REDACTED] who resides either at [REDACTED] Poplarville, Mississippi, or at [REDACTED] Mississippi. He saw this man in the hall at [REDACTED] talked to him very briefly, determined that he could not help make an identification of any of the members of the mob. He got the impression somewhere that [REDACTED] was out the south entrance of the hospital and that the cars were pulling away from the courthouse. b7c

opportunity to observe at least the car that reportedly proceeded in a westerly direction with PARKER.

He could think of no other witnesses.

STEWART did not ask any of the persons he contacted any specific questions as to whether or not any of the cars leaving the scene had proceeded in a northerly direction between the hospital and the jail and did not recall anyone volunteering any information that any of the cars which may have been driven by members of the mob had proceeded in that direction.

STEWART received some information from some sources about someone stating that some of the hoodlums in part of the mob used as masks had slipped down from their faces before they got PARKER in the car; however, he could not recall where he got that information, but believed it probably came from JOHN REYER.

He also remarked that [REDACTED] and PETS CARVER usually meet each night at about midnight for a cup of coffee and that he did not consider it unusual for them to be having a cup of coffee at about midnight on the night of April 24, 1959. b7c

According to STEWART, Sheriff MOORE had gone to the jail before he got there and had questioned the prisoners and some of the people at the hospital before he arrived at the scene.

On the night of April 24, 1959, [REDACTED] was visiting [REDACTED] in Poplarville. [REDACTED] came down to the courthouse about thirty minutes after [REDACTED] left his home to bring him some telephone messages. He did not think [REDACTED] had received any information which would be pertinent to this case. b7c

It was the opinion of STEWART that [REDACTED] the local officers were in the dark and he was surprised that it was apparent to STEWART that the local officers would not know anything and did not expect any trouble.

H. GEORGE VAUGHT MOODY
Deputy Sheriff
Pearl River County

GEORGE VAUGHT MOODY was interviewed on
April 25 & 28, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
and on May 2, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. b7c
He furnished the following information concerning his activities on the
night of April 24, 1959, and morning of April 25, 1959:

He advised that he is employed on a
full-time basis as a Mathematics Instructor at the
Pearl River Junior College, Poplarville, Mississippi.
He said his hours at the school are from 8:00 AM to
2:00 PM. At the conclusion of his school work, he
generally goes to the Sheriff's Office, where he handles
office work for his father. He stated he resides in
Poplarville approximately three blocks from the courthouse.

On April 24, 1959, he came to the Sheriff's
Office after school at approximately 2:00 PM and worked
for about one hour. He then left and went to the grove
which he owns, approximately one mile west of Poplarville,
and worked in the grove until about 5:00 PM, when he re-
turned to his home. He stayed at home until approximately
8:30 PM, when he and his wife left to attend
a dance at the Pearl River Junior College. He said he had
no phone calls or visitors at his home between 8:00 PM
and 8:30 PM. He said he left the dance at the college at
approximately 11:05 PM, April 24, 1959, and drove straight
to his home, accompanied by his wife, arriving home at
approximately 11:10 PM. He said he did not go by the
courthouse en route to his home from the college. He
said that while at the dance he had been introduced with
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] home after the dance [REDACTED]. b7c

Attorney in Poplarville, [REDACTED]
Masonic Temple Building, [REDACTED]
Pearl River Junior College. He said that [REDACTED]
approximately the same time he and his wife did. He said

his father, who is Sheriff W. OSBORNE MOODY, and his mother were at his home, baby sitting; that they stayed briefly after they had arrived from the dance, and left at approximately 11:20 PM. He recalled that [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] visited with them until approximately midnight and then left. b7c

MOODY said he and his wife went to bed sometime between 12:15 and 12:30 AM, April 25, 1959. Shortly after retiring, he received a phone call and while en route to answer the phone he looked at the clock and noted it was 12:35 AM, April 25, 1959. He said that the caller was his father, Sheriff MOODY, who told him that a group of men had removed M. C. PATTER from the jail and that he was to come to the Sheriff's Office to assist his father. He said his father told him he was then calling from the Sheriff's Office. MOODY said he dressed very hurriedly and arrived at the Sheriff's Office no later than 12:40 AM, April 29, 1959.

He said when he arrived at the Sheriff's Office he noticed the following individuals present: Sheriff W. OSBORNE MOODY, Night Marshal JOHN CARROLL, Day Marshal B. F. ORR, R. J. WHEAT, JOHN SMITH, and a individual unknown to him at the time, but later identified to him as [REDACTED]. He said all of these individuals were standing around in the Sheriff's Office. He said he could not specifically state, but feels that possibly [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] may have been there at the time, inasmuch as he does recall seeing them a short time thereafter. He said when he arrived his father was busy on the telephone and after speaking briefly with the men present he took his flashlight and proceeded upstairs to the courtroom where he went as far as the jail door, but did not enter the jail. He said when he arrived at the rear of the courtroom he observed a trail on the floor of the courtroom which led from the jail door to the north or rear exit of the courtroom, such as might have been made by smeared blood. He was of the opinion that this was not merely disturbed dust, but did show evidence of the type of moisture which might be considered as blood. He said he observed blood spots on the landing of the south staircase and a larger smear and a small puddle of blood at the base of these stairs. He noted numerous small smears of blood on the floor of the main corridor of the courtroom indicating someone had been dragged down the

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corridor in a southerly direction. He said he observed a smear of blood on the wall immediately adjacent to the doorway leading into the Sheriff's Office, which would be on the east side of the main corridor. He also observed drops of blood in the center of the corridor immediately opposite the door to the Sheriff's Office, and several small drops of blood on the floor close to the west wall of the corridor opposite the door to the Sheriff's Office. He observed the same smears of blood leading from the door to the Sheriff's Office out to the south door of the courthouse. He said the smears indicated to him that the victim had been dragged toward the middle of the south door and then pulled off to the west of the center of the south door, indicating to him that it had been necessary for the individuals carrying the victim to pull him to one side so that they could open the door. He observed blood spots and smears leading down the steps from the south door of the courthouse. Commencing at the foot of the stairs and leading out onto the sidewalk and to the curb, he observed drops or smears of blood, but observed no smears, which indicated to him that the victim may not have been dragged at that point and possibly could have been walking.

He said that his examination of the scene took no more than two or three minutes and, at the conclusion, he rejoined his father in the Sheriff's Office. He was of the opinion that County Attorney WILLIAM A. STEWART and Patrolman [redacted] came into the Sheriff's Office at approximately the time he rejoined his father. He said the group in the Sheriff's Office had a general discussion and, at approximately 1:00 p.m., April 25, 1959, it was commonly decided that a search should be conducted in the Poplarville vicinity in an attempt to observe anything of value which might be of assistance in locating M. C. FARMER.

He recalled specifically nothing to L. J. WHEAT during the time he had been in the Sheriff's Office preliminary to the search because he, [redacted], had answered the phone and an individual who identified himself as being affiliated with Radio-TV Station WTV, [redacted], had asked him about developments in the case and suggested

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11 to him that they had received information to the effect
12 that R. J. WHEAT had been an eye witness to the matter.
13 He said that while on the phone or immediately thereafter
14 he turned to R. J. WHEAT and asked him if he had been an
15 eye witness. It was his recollection that R. J. WHEAT
16 said, "No, I wasn't--it might have been [REDACTED] MOODY
17 said by that, WHEAT meant that it might have been [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] who was reportedly across the
19 street from the courthouse at approximately midnight. b7c
20 He said R. J. WHEAT told him that he had been with PETE
21 CARVER in PETE CARVER's car when he first heard of the
22 incident. MOODY could not recall specifically that he
23 spoke individually to JOHN REYER, [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED] concerning the matter at this time.
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26 He recalled hearing conversation to the
27 effect that the mob may have used "a couple of cars,"
28 that they were masked, including some mention of black
29 hoods, and that possibly eight to ten men had been involved.
30 He said no car descriptions nor descriptions of clothing
31 worn by the men were mentioned to him. He said he obtained
32 most of the details from his father in very brief conversation
33 with him.
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35 After the decision to search the area, he
36 went from the Sheriff's Office to his car and proceeded
37 alone to conduct the search. He said at the time he left
38 on the search he noted PETE CARVER, B. F. ORR, R. J. WHEAT,
39 and possibly [REDACTED] in CARVER's car, presumably
40 to conduct a search on their own. He said he had not asked
41 anyone to accompany him on his search and no one volunteered.
42 He said it was not particularly unusual that he should
43 conduct the search alone, whereas possibly four other in- b7c
44 dividuals entered one car to search. He pointed out that
45 it is very rare for anyone from the Sheriff's Office to
46 work with either B. F. ORR or PETE CARVER and, further,
47 that CARVER, ORR, WHEAT and [REDACTED] were close friends
48 and often worked together on various matters. He said no
49 one suggested to him what area should be searched, although
50 he recalled mentioning to the group that he planned to go
51 north on Highway 11. He said no one attempted to dissuade
52 him from searching in that direction. He did not know in
53 which direction PETE CARVER and the others intended to search.
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POOPY approximated that he left the Sheriff's Office at 1:00 AM and headed north on Highway 11, searching all dirt roads for a distance of approximately one mile east and west of Highway 11 for a total distance of about seven miles north on Highway 11. He said he observed nothing of value during this search. At the conclusion of his search, he returned to the Alcoa Gas Station just north of Poplarville on Highway 11, where he placed his car and then returned to the Sheriff's Office. He arrived at the Sheriff's Office at 3:00 AM. When he arrived there, he observed several MHP patrolmen and some reporters present. He stayed in the Sheriff's Office approximately five minutes, answering phone calls from newspapers, and then received a call from his mother, inquiring as to what had happened at the jail, and, because of her nervous condition, he decided he would leave the Sheriff's Office and check on her, which he did. He said he left the Sheriff's Office at about 3:05 AM, drove to his father's home, which is eight miles west of Poplarville, and stayed there with his mother until approximately 4:00 AM. He said that at that time he had "killed" and he returned to the Sheriff's Office.

He said he had received no suspicious phone calls, had observed no strangers on either Highway 11 or in a suspicious manner at the coastguard and had not been contacted by anyone in a suspicious manner relative to PARKER during the day of April 24, 1968.

POOPY was asked whether or not the name of any suspects had entered his mind in connection with hearing the news that PARKER had been released from the jail. He said that he had thought of [REDACTED] in this connection, and said that he had been at [REDACTED] house while searching for [REDACTED] at 3:00 AM. He approximated that he had observed [REDACTED] at 2:45 AM and observed [REDACTED] at the house at that time. [REDACTED] has only one vehicle, which is white. [REDACTED] unable to specifically explain why he [REDACTED] a suspect other than that [REDACTED] who is constantly seeking money from the Sheriff's Office and is the [REDACTED] a great deal of time hanging around the Sheriff's Office. b7c

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10 said he is just generally suspicious of him and has thought
11 [redacted] in the past has possibly "pumped" him for informa-
12 tion which he might have later passed on to bootleggers.
13 He said [redacted] has contacted him almost daily since
14 the incident of PARKER's removal, seeking information in
15 a general way as to the progress of the investigation. b7c
16 He said [redacted] had also told him since that time that
17 he had been out with a woman, not identified, the night
18 that PARKER was taken from the jail.
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20 I. JEWEL HAYSEL ALFORD
21 Jailer
22 Pearl River County
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24 JEWEL ALFORD was interviewed on April 24,
25 1959, by SA's [redacted] and [redacted]
26 and on May 4, 1959, by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] b7c
27 [redacted] He furnished the following information:
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29 He advised his official title is Pearl River
30 County Patrolman, but that this title is merely for
31 pay purposes only, and that he functions as a Deputy
32 Sheriff and Jailer, and is deputized by the Sheriff of
33 Pearl River County. He stated that in addition to his em-
34 ployment as set out above he also owns a part interest in
35 the C. & A. Cafe in Poplarville with [redacted] b7c
36 is a part-time salesman for the Rebel Hardware Store,
37 518 East Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi, operating
38 in the Poplarville area, and also has a part interest in
39 a small body shop in Poplarville. He said that his wife
40 is the former ORSE MOODY, who is the sister of Pearl River
41 County Sheriff W. OSBORNE MOODY. He said she is employed
42 on a part-time basis at the Magnolia Court, a motel in
43 Poplarville. He resides approximately three blocks north
44 of the Pearl River County Courthouse in Poplarville. He
45 has two sons, ages 7 and 10.
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47 He said that on the morning of April 24,
48 1959, he went to the C. & A. Cafe at Poplarville, as is
49 his normal custom, at approximately 5:00 or 5:30 AM, at
50 which time he prepared breakfast for prisoners in Pearl
51 River County Jail and carried the breakfast to the jail,
52 arriving at about 6:00 AM. It was his recollection that
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relative of his wife. [redacted] [redacted] to see him that day concerning the [redacted] Nash Rambler automobile from [redacted]. He said the [redacted] was recently discharged from the service and is now [redacted] employed by the Nash Rambler dealer in Jacksonville, Florida, as a salesman. It was his recollection [redacted] after visiting briefly at his, [redacted] [redacted] the two of them went together to the [redacted] [redacted] they picked up the evening meal for the [redacted] [redacted] it to the jail where they fed the prisoners. [redacted] was with him while he went to the jail and [redacted] [redacted] handling the food while feeding the prisoners.

ALFORD asked if they testified whether or not any of the prisoners at the County Jail on April 24, 1960, and this was to which was maintained at the County Jail.

He said that sometime between 11:30 and 12:30 AM, April 25, 1959, he had a phone call from JAMES E. GILBERT.

MOODY, who said, "come on around to the Sheriff's Office, they took the Negro." He said he had very brief conversation with the Sheriff at this time, learning only that a group of masked men had removed W. C. PARKER from the jail. He said he immediately dressed and was at the Sheriff's Office no more than ten minutes after receiving the Sheriff's phone call. He recalled the following persons as being present when he entered the Sheriff's Office: Sheriff A. OSBORNE MOODY; WILLIAM H. STEWART, County Attorney; E. F. ORR, Town Marshal; PETER CARVER, Night Marshal; A. J. WHEAT; (FNU) [REDACTED] and some Mississippi Highway Patrolmen. He said there may have been others there, but he does not specifically recall this. It was his recollection that after arriving at the Sheriff's Office he heard general conversation, specific sources unrecalled, that a group of men masked and driving four or five cars presumably came through the window of the Sheriff's Office and obtained the jail keys from a filing cabinet and then removed W. C. PARKER from the jail. He said he recalled making a phone call at this time to Deputy Sheriff WILLIAM STEWART MOODY at Picayune, Mississippi, which is also in Pearl River County, and advising MOODY of PARKER's abduction. He made the observation that MOODY seemed thoroughly surprised and shocked to hear of the abduction. He said he stayed in the Sheriff's Office approximately thirty minutes after arriving on the scene and then went to the jail to inspect the scene at the jail for himself.

He could not remember whether the door leading from the jail to the courtroom was locked or unlocked, closed or standing open when he arrived. He said [REDACTED] what had happened and [REDACTED] "get the Negro" and no more. [REDACTED] did not recall specifically speaking to any of the other prisoners at this time concerning the incident. He said that he observed smears which appeared to him to be blood on the floor of PARKER's cell and some on the wall of PARKER's cell and on the jail floor leading from PARKER's cell to the jail door opening into the courtroom. He said there was trash consisting of paper and other debris scattered all over PARKER's cell and the cell immediately south of PARKER's. He said he assumed this had come from a garbage can which is customarily filled with this debris and which was at that time lying overturned in PARKER's cell. He also

observed what appeared to him to be water on the floor in PARKER's cell. He did not recall seeing any clubs or weapons which might possibly have been used to beat PARKER, but recalled later while cleaning the jail he saw one of the prisoners pick up a portion of a broom handle which had been split lengthwise and watched the prisoner break it in half and throw it in the garbage can for disposal. He said that this portion of the handle apparently came from a straw broom which is customarily kept in the jail and which he observed at that time to be split. He said he saw no masks or gloves in the jail.

It was his recollection that he next went down to the Sheriff's Office and asked the Sheriff about cleaning up the jail and the blood smears in the courthouse proper. He said the Sheriff told him to postpone cleaning up for awhile until all necessary photographs and investigation at the scene had been completed.

In connection with the cleaning of the jail and courthouse, he said that at about 7:00 AM, April 23, 1959, the blood in the area began to smell slightly and it was decided that inasmuch as the women on buses at the courthouse would be arriving shortly the jail should be cleaned up. He said that he and first [redacted] started to clean the blood from the floors and get the worst of it up; however, they were not able to do a thorough job and, consequently, when the janitors arrived, they completed the work. He said the prisoners themselves cleaned up in the jail. He recalled that he saw one [redacted] and possibly another [redacted] carry [redacted] to the back of the hospital immediately across the street from the [redacted] where they burned it in an incinerator. ALFORD said that after he finished cleaning the area he stayed at the courthouse until 11:00 in the PM of April 23, 1959, leaving late that night to his home in his recollection. b7c

ALFORD stated that unless someone else had had occasion to use the jail keys he would have been the last to place them in the filing cabinet after feeding the prisoners in the approximate area of 9:00 PM, April 23, 1959. He pointed out that sometimes the janitors will take the

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12 jail keys from the cabinet and let out one or two prisoners
13 to assist them in cleaning and later lock the prisoners
14 back in the jail. He distinctly remembered that on that
15 night the janitor, HOUSTON "FLAT" AMACHER, left the court-
16 house before he did, so he was of the opinion that some of
17 the prisoners would have been used by the janitor in
18 cleaning after he, ALFORD, left. He said he ordinarily
19 leaves the filing cabinet containing the jail keys open
20 when he leaves and probably left it open that night. He
21 said sometimes the latch to the filing cabinet is left
22 unsnapped and the key in the latch. He does not recall
23 whether or not the windows to the Sheriff's Office were
24 latched when he left, although he pointed out as a rule
25 they are locked. He specifically recalled locking the
26 south door to the courthouse with his key when he left.
27 He also specifically recalled that when he returned to
28 the Sheriff's Office early in the morning of April 25, 1968,
29 after receiving the Sheriff's call, he examined the south
30 door to the courthouse and noticed that the door was open
31 and the latch was standing out from the door which would
32 indicate the door had been opened without the use of a key
33 because, had a key been used, the latch would have been
34 recessed. He said the latch on the bottom of the west
35 double door was loose, which would make it possible for
36 someone to either pull the double doors open from the
37 inside or push them open from the outside, causing the
38 doors to part sufficiently so that the latch would slip
39 out of place.

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41 ALFORD said that when M. C. PETER was first
42 brought to Poplarville on the night of April 23, 1968, he
43 and Sheriff W. OSBORNE HOOBY discussed the possibility of
44 ALFORD maintaining the jail keys in his personal possession
45 at that time rather than leaving them in the filing cabinet
46 drawer as was custom. He said this would have been for
47 security reasons, inasmuch as when ALFORD was first arrested
48 in Lumberton, there had been talking and rumors from unre-
49 called sources about possible violence. He emphasized he
50 had heard nothing specifically at that time and had no
51 information whatsoever about individuals who may have been
52 responsible for this talk. He said after discussing the
53 matter with the Sheriff they decided that ALFORD should
54 maintain the keys in his personal possession which he did
55 for several days. ALFORD said he then "got to thinking about
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it" and decided that in the event a crowd came after the keys in order to get PARKER out of jail he himself would be in danger, and, not wanting to risk his personal safety, he told Sheriff MOODY of his fears. He said Sheriff MOODY was in agreement with him and that, after consulting with the Judge, Sheriff MOODY told him to go back to the normal routine of placing the jail keys in the filing cabinet at the Sheriff's Office, which he did.

ALFORD stated he did not know if any persons other than law enforcement officials knew that he was personally carrying the jail keys for the several days immediately after M. C. PARKER was lodged in the Poplarville jail. He said that he had no suspicious contacts in any manner from any persons concerning these keys. He explained that replacing the keys in the filing cabinet was prompted only by his own thinking and fears on the matter, and he had no threats whatsoever from any source previous or subsequent to so doing.

ALFORD was of the recollection that [REDACTED] Pearl River County Tax Assessor, told him he worked late in his office at the courthouse on the night of April 26, 1959. ALFORD said he had no suspects in this matter and stated that he did not believe the perpetrators of this crime were from the Poplarville vicinity. He said he was of the opinion had they been from Poplarville they would have removed PARKER from the jail when first brought into Poplarville. b7c

He said no one contacted him prior to PARKER's abduction with any information of any kind indicating that such an abduction was being planned and said he has not been contacted since by anyone with any information whatsoever as to the identity of the abductors. He said he has furnished all pertinent information concerning this case to the FBI.

J. HOUSTON AMICKER
Janitor, Pearl River
County Courthouse

HOUSTON AMICKER was interviewed by [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959, and said [REDACTED] on May 2, 1959. He stated that he resides at House #, Poplarville, b7c

and has been employed as a janitor at the courthouse since 1951.

He advised that on Friday, April 24, 1968, he worked his regular hours, leaving the courthouse at about 6:00 PM. He then ate his meal at Joe Orr's Cafe and talked to him for awhile. At the Star Cafe, he also talked to FRANCIS BARKER, another acquaintance, and also met J. P. WALKER of Poplarville. At about 8:00 PM, the fire whistle started blowing, and Mr. AMACHER went with WALKER in WALKER's car to follow the fire engine. They traveled out the Bogalusa Road to the White Sands Community and went to the home of MORACE SMITH, where the house was on fire. He and WALKER returned to Poplarville at about 9:00 PM, arriving in Poplarville, R. J. WHEAT and [REDACTED] drove up behind them and, after WALKER and [REDACTED] entered into the Star Cafe to order coffee, WHEAT and [REDACTED] followed them in and joined them. After talking together for a short while, [REDACTED] a neighbor of AMACHER's, came in. He eventually took AMACHER home at about 9:30 PM. b7c

On Saturday morning, April 25, 1968, AMACHER started towards town and was given a ride by Mrs. W. O. AMACHER, Route 3, Poplarville, who was taking her son, BUDDY, to work at Movie Star of Poplarville. Mr. AMACHER stated that she left him off at the north side of the courthouse square and he entered the north door of the courthouse at about 6:45 AM. He stated that he was intending to do extra work that day in connection with the forthcoming meeting of the court scheduled for the next week. When he entered the door, he found that it was unlocked and he noted that JIMMIE ALFOLD, the jailer, was there with J. WHEAT, [REDACTED] and possibly E. F. ORR, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was the only representative of the Sheriff's Office seen. b7c

ALFOLD immediately told AMACHER that Sheriff W. O. MOODY wanted him to clean the floor. AMACHER could see for himself there were brown stains which he said were apparently caused by blood and [REDACTED] had been mopping everywhere but was only using water and not getting the stains up. b7c

AMACKER went to the janitor's room near the south door of the courthouse to get a bucket and then went outside the building on the west side to fill his bucket with water. He returned then to the janitor's room to get cleaning fluid and picked up a mop somewhere but could not recall exactly which one. ALFORD suggested he get some prisoners to help with this mopping and he believes ALFORD said that the Sheriff wanted the floors clean before the office people arrived for work at 8:00 AM. AMACKER told ALFORD he could handle this work himself and did not call for any prisoners.

He stated that he began mopping the north end of the building, which is at the landing of the stairs which come down from the courtroom proper and the adjoining jail. The first large spot of stain he found was near the foot of the stairs. He proceeded down the main corridor going towards the south door. The stain was marked in locations up to a width of about 18 inches. He noted that the stain was not continuous but was visible as far as the south door. Going outside on the stone steps, there were additional stains there and on the sidewalk leading from the courthouse grounds to the street and the regular sidewalk. He believed that the last spot he recalled cleaning was the largest one visible outside, and it was closer to the courthouse steps than it was to the street.

While proceeding with this work, he could recall no one approaching him for any purpose and, when he had finished outside, he returned to the north end of the corridor and started working up the stairs. By the time he got to the top of the stairs, he was feeling nauseated and, since it was about 8:00 AM by then, when he ordinarily went to the Post Office to deliver mail by that time, he decided to handle this and stop doing any further work. His brother, [redacted], arrived by this time and was told to continue the mopping in the courtroom and up to the jail door.

He went outside the building and was [redacted] half-way to the Post Office when he met [redacted] the [redacted] b7c

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12 is employed by the Sheriff in his office. He asked her
13 if she would take his keys and go to the Post Office for
14 the mail because he felt sick and wanted to visit a doctor. b7c
15 He saw [REDACTED] and received some medicine from him and
16 then returned to the courthouse. At that time he met
17 HUBERT downstairs and HUBERT said that the mopping was
18 finished.

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20 During the day, HUBERT handled most of
21 the cleaning upstairs in the courtroom. Mr. AMACKER
22 stated that he worked in the offices on the main floor,
23 sweeping the halls at different times and generally pre-
24 paring the courthouse for the coming court session. He
25 stated that during this cleaning work he found no clothing
26 or any type of cloth. Further, he found no sticks or debris
27 of any kind and, in general, said he found only the usual
28 debris he collects whenever he cleans. He stated he
29 finished his work at about 4:00 PM and went to his home.
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31 Mr. AMACKER stated further that he ordinari-
32 ly has access to the jail keys but makes a practice of
33 asking ALFORD if it is all right before he takes the keys.
34 He stated that the keys presently in his charge came after
35 a jail break in November, 1958, and that the keys are
36 usually kept in a safe cabinet in the Sheriff's Office.
37 He stated there were exceptions to the procedure in the
38 handling of the keys, mentioning that when his brother,
39 JEFFIE AMACKER, a constable, brings a prisoner in he might
40 take the keys and let them in without asking ALFORD for
41 permission.
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43 Regarding his last use of the keys, Mr.
44 AMACKER stated, before the Sheriff's Office advised
45 the jail [REDACTED] he called [REDACTED]
46 [REDACTED] sent him to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
47 prisoner, some money and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
48 a relative. He said he took the keys from [REDACTED]
49 and went to the jail door and unlocked it [REDACTED]
50 opening the door, he handed the money and [REDACTED]
51 [REDACTED] the [REDACTED] to deliver and then [REDACTED]
52 immediately went back to the Sheriff's Office. He believed
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that he laid the keys on top of the cabinet at that time, inasmuch as [REDACTED] and ALFORD were still there in the office. ALFORD was waiting at this time to go to the C. & A. Cafe to pick up the evening meal for the prisoners. He stated that he remembered locking the north and east doors of the courthouse and then looking in the Sheriff's Office to tell ALFORD he was leaving for the day. He departed through the south door, which was left unlocked inasmuch as ALFORD was still on the premises. b7c

Mr. WACKER stated he was not aware at any time of any plans for abduction of M. C. FARMER and that, since the incident took place, he has heard from no source any information relating to the identity of the people involved.

[REDACTED]

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19 **X. HUBERT AMACKER**
20 Janitor, Pearl River
21 County Courthouse
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23 HUBERT AMACKER was interviewed by SA's
24 [redacted] and [redacted] on May 2, 1961. He
25 advised he resides at Route 3, Bogalusa, and assists his
26 brother, HOUSTON AMACKER, as a janitor at the Pearl River
27 County Courthouse. b7c
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29 He stated that on Friday, April 24, 1969,
30 he was at his usual work in the courthouse until about
31 6:00 PM. He left at that time and went downtown to eat
32 and, after visiting with various acquaintances at the
33 cafes, he departed at about 9:00 PM with his brother,
34 JEFFIE AMACKER, to ride to Bogalusa, Louisiana. The
35 principal purpose of going to Bogalusa was to buy some
36 beer which they brought with them, return to Bogalusa
37 about 11:00 PM. At that time, they [redacted]
38 and drank a few beers together while parked in their car
39 on the east side of the railroad tracks. When ready to go
40 home, Mr. AMACKER stated he would estimate it was about
41 midnight. They drove past the ice house on a street which
42 is several blocks east of the main street and crossed
43 Main Street at the traffic signal near City Hall. From
44 this point, they traveled on State Highway 63 to the inter-
45 section of U. S. Highway 11 and then proceeded home. He
46 stated he could not recall they saw any cars at all until
47 they reached Highway 11 on the east side of town and then
48 possibly met a few there, but no notice was given of them.
49 [redacted] drove his own car ahead of them and they
50 crossed Highway 11 and traveled towards his home on the
51 Bogalusa Road. b7c
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53 As they crossed Main Street near the City
54 Hall, AMACKER stated he caught a glimpse of light in the
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corridor of the Pearl River County Courthouse. He stated that lights in the corridor are usually not on at night but that he could see some reflections shining through the east door. He thought at the time it might be someone bringing in a prisoner, and JEPPIE commented that it might be a State Highway Patrolman. They proceeded to their home without further incident.

On the morning of Saturday, April 30, 1955, he obtained a ride into town with a neighbor [redacted] and [redacted] related some of the news concerning the break-in at the jail, in which [redacted] apparently been in Poplarville sometime during the night. b7c

On arrival at the courthouse, at about 7:30 AM, Mr. AMACKER went in the south door, which was unlocked. He met his brother, HOUSTON, who said there was some mopping to be done and that he was to work on the courtroom floor. He stated he used water and could see signs that someone had previously been mopping, apparently with clear water, inasmuch as there were still stains remaining on the floor. He obtained his mopping equipment, including cleaning solution, and started to work near the jail door because there were heavier stains visible at that point.

He worked from the jail door towards the back of the courtroom and then towards the main center doors at the rear of the courtroom. As he was going he found it was necessary to clean about 100 feet in the center aisle going towards the bench. He stated that the stains were brown in color and at first he noticed most of scattered spots. He continued cleaning as far as the head of the stairs, which was the point where HOUSTON left off.

After completing his mopping, he began sweeping around the courtroom and found a number of cigarette butts at the jail door, which he placed in his trash. He found no noticeable amount of trash anywhere else and found no clubs or other weapons or pieces of clothing of any kind. He did not attempt to clean inside the jail door.

He stated he remained on the second floor until about 10:30 or 11:00 AM and then worked elsewhere in the courthouse throughout the day and noted nothing unusual in the trash collected.

Concerning his access to the jail keys, Mr. AMACKER stated he obtains them with permission from the Sheriff's Office when told to enter the jail. He stated that the keys were always kept in a cabinet drawer in the Sheriff's Office. He stated that he has never used the keys without permission.

Concerning his knowledge of the activity of the courthouse on the night of April 2, 1969, he advised that he recalled that he checked the north and east doors to be certain they were locked and was aware that JEWEL ALFORD was still in the Sheriff's Office when he departed. He left by way of the south door and left it open because the jailer was still on the ground floor.

L. [REDACTED]

FRED MELLING, Unit 61, Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Poplarville, Mississippi, was interviewed on May 5, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. MELLING advised he received a telephone call at his residence in Poplarville between 1:00 and 1:10 a.m., Saturday, April 25, 1959, from Sheriff W. O. MOODY. [REDACTED] advised Sheriff MOODY informed "they got our boy out." [REDACTED] asked which boy MOODY had reference to and the Sheriff said "they got the nigger." MELLING advised he assumed MOODY was referring to the PARKER Negro and stated Sheriff MOODY requested that he come to the Sheriff's Office. b7c

MELLING advised he immediately thereafter dressed, got in his patrol car, and informed the Gulfport, Mississippi Substation of the Highway Patrol by radio of the information given him by Sheriff MOODY and of the fact that he would furnish more information later. He arrived at the Sheriff's Office at approximately 1:25 AM and met Sheriff MOODY at the south entrance of the courthouse. MOODY showed him some staining on the corridor inside the courthouse which appeared to be fresh blood and which the Sheriff said was a "parently blood from PARKER, who had been taken from his cell by some masked men. At this time, Pearl River County Attorney LINDA STEWART arrived. MELLING, Sheriff MOODY, and STEWART then went upstairs to the jail where they talked briefly with the prisoners concerning descriptive data of the individuals who had taken PARKER. MELLING advised he was in the jail no longer than five or ten minutes at the most, after which he returned to his car and radioed Gulfport, furnishing them with the available descriptive information.

He then went back to the Sheriff's Office where someone, believed to have been Sheriff MOODY, pointed to a window partially open through which he said a "black man had apparently gained entrance to the office. [REDACTED] also mentioned a cabinet in the Sheriff's Office where [REDACTED] that the jail keys were kept. He advised the top drawer of this cabinet, which ordinarily contains the keys, appeared to have been tampered with, explaining that the upper part of the drawer was bent slightly inward and bore what appeared to be tool marks.

MELLING was not certain but stated he believed

that he re-traced his steps to his car and radioed the Hattiesburg Substation to alert the Bogalusa, Louisiana Police Department and the Louisiana State Police. Shortly thereafter, he received a radio call from the Gulfport Substation giving him a telephone number for Sheriff MOODY to call. He was informed that this was the number at which Mississippi's Governor JAMES P. COLEMAN could be reached.

He furnished this number to Sheriff MOODY and, thereafter, accompanied by E. J. WHEAT and C. F. ORR, he proceeded east on Highway 26 searching for any evidence of the unknown abductors, during the course of which he looked for blood and other evidence on the Wolf Creek bridge on Highway 26, and drove over several dirt roads in the area, all with negative results.

He then returned to the Sheriff's Office where WHEAT and ORR got out of the car. He picked up Sheriff MOODY and Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Inspector R. M. [REDACTED], who had arrived, and the three drove to the scene where PARKER was alleged to have raped a housewife from Bogalusa, Louisiana. They found no evidence indicating that the persons who abducted PARKER had taken him to that area.

WELLING advised that he thereafter searched a number of roads in the Bogalusa area until about daylight when BILL HOOD, Chief of the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, arrived at Bogalusa and took charge of the Sheriff's investigation.

WELLING stated he had no information whatever as to possible suspects and stated that the feeling in the Bogalusa area prior to PARKER's abduction, appeared to be one of relief that [REDACTED] would be convicted of the rape, and that he would get a just and fair trial.

III. WITNESSES

A. PRISONERS IN THE PEARL RIVER COUNTY JAIL

1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was a prisoner in the white section of the Pearl River County Jail at the time of the abduction of MACK CHARLES PARKER. He is 34 years of age and had been confined to the jail since February 9, 1959, on a charge of taking mortgaged property out of the state without permission. He was a trusty and in that capacity slept on a cot in the hallway outside the cells in the white section of the jail.

[REDACTED] was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 28, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 11, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 13, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 14, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 15, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 16, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 20, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and on May 21, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] has been released from the Pearl River County Jail and subsequently from the [REDACTED] Jail. He can be reached through his [REDACTED] employed by [REDACTED]. His address is in Pearl River County, Mississippi, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] advised when interviewed on April 25, 1959, that he had seen asleep the night of April 24, 1959, on a cot in the hallway outside the cells in the white section of the Pearl River County Jail. He was awakened by someone rattling the door at the entrance of the jail.

His first thought was that the Sheriff was bringing in a drunk so he got up and walked toward the platform on the jail side of the entrance door from which an open stairway leads up to the colored section and down to the white section. As he got even with this platform, the jail door opened and a man wearing a black hood which covered his entire head walked through the door. This hood had no eye holes and was thin enough so that the man could see through it. This man was also carrying a revolver, which appeared to [redacted] to be about the same size as a .38 caliber snub-nose revolver. This man wore an old hat but the color was not noted. He wore work clothing, which [redacted] could not otherwise describe.

[redacted] said that this man did not say anything but held his forefinger up in front of his mouth to indicate that [redacted] should be quiet. [redacted] said that he immediately thought that they had come for PARKER and he was so scared that he immediately turned around facing the door of the cell where the woman prisoner was sleeping and tried to keep her quiet so that she would not get hysterical. He said that he only saw the one man come through the door, although he realized there were others going up the stairs. He claimed that he kept his back turned to the stairway the entire time the men were there. He also said that he did not go to the window at the end of the hallway to look out toward the street after the men had taken PARKER out.

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He estimates that the men were in the jail about seven minutes and he heard PARKER yelling for help. He did not hear any of the men say anything and cannot estimate how many men there were.

About 4:30 or 6:45 AM the next morning, the jailer told him to start cleaning up the blood in the jail. Most of the blood was in the cell where [redacted] had been kept but there was also blood all the way down the stairs although PARKER had been dragged. He did not see any clubs or sticks during the time he was cleaning up the blood.

On April 23, 1950, [redacted] furnished the following descriptive data of one of the persons who had entered the jail:

██████████ stated that the only person he observed was the first individual who entered the jail through the jail door. He described this individual as 5' 9" or 5' 10", 160 pounds, dressed in blue denim trousers and blue denim jumper. He stated this individual was wearing a light colored felt hat either tan or gray. He stated this individual was wearing white cotton work gloves with knit wrists and a mask of black cloth, which covered the area between the hat brim and the chest. He stated he noted no eye holes in this mask and the cloth appeared to be thin.

He advised that this individual was carrying a blue steel snub-nose revolver in his right hand. He advised that this individual was observed by him while this individual was standing approximately 3 to 3½ feet directly in front of a burning light bulb.

On May 13, 1959, ██████████ advised that four men came into the cell block of the Pearl River County Jail to abduct JACK CHARLES FARMER and that he could identify all four. He stated he would not make any statement so long as he was confined in the jail, that he felt his life was in jeopardy, particularly since the MSP had removed Patrolmen who were guarding the jail.

On May 14, 1959, ██████████ furnished the following signed statement to SA's ██████████ ██████████
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"Poplarville, Mississippi
May 14, 1959

"I, ██████████ do the following free and voluntary signed statement to ██████████ and ██████████ both of whom have identified this document as my statement. I know I do not have to make a statement, and any statement I make may be used against me in Court of Law. I know I have a right to stop answering questions at any time. I am not making this statement because of threats, promises, or offers of reward or any other inducement to make this statement.

"I am 34 years of age, and have been confined to the Pearl River County Jail at Poplarville, Mississippi, since February 9, 1959, on a charge of False Pretense. I was born and raised in Pearl River County, and am acquainted with a large number of the citizens of the county.

"On April 24, 1959, I was confined in the Pearl River County Jail, located on the second floor of the courthouse. I was a trusty in the jail and as such had the run of the corridor and bull pen in the cell block. At about 12:25 AM Saturday, April 25, 1959, while I was lying awake on my bunk, I heard keys rattling in the door leading from the cell block into the courtroom. Since I had been told several times by Jewel Alford, jailer, that if anybody came up there for Parker, a Negro held for raping a white woman, that I should point Parker out there to them, and to make sure they got the right Negro, I immediately assumed that the keys rattling at the door indicated that somebody had come for Parker. My bunk being in the south end of the bull pen, I got up and walked over by the steps leading up to the door. A light was burning over the landing in the bull pen, and another light was burning in the upper tier of cells, occupied by Negro prisoners.

"About the time I got to the steps, the door leading out into the courtroom opened, and a man came through the door and walked down the steps to the lower tier. This man curly-headed with black hair whose identity I did not know, but whom I am positive I have seen on a number of occasions standing around in front of the Poplarville Furniture Company, which store is located directly across Pearl Street from the courthouse. This man was followed by a second man who I immediately recognized as J. P. Walker, owner of Walker's Body Shop at Picayune, Mississippi, and who is a candidate for Sheriff of Pearl River County. Walker was closely followed through the door by a man whom I recognized

"The fifth man to come to the door I immediately recognized as [REDACTED] who operates [REDACTED]. I am personally acquainted with [REDACTED] have been in [REDACTED] on a number of occasions, and he frequently accompanies [REDACTED] into the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] roomer, I know that he had [REDACTED] his [REDACTED] which was in a splint. When I saw [REDACTED] in the door of the cell block, where he stopped, he was wearing grey work pants and the same color cotton shirt, with the sleeves buttoned. He, too, was wearing white cotton gloves with a blue elastic wrist band, and I saw that his right index finger in the glove was [REDACTED]

which immediately indicated that it was [redacted] to me. [redacted] had a blue bandana across the front of his face, from the bridge of his nose down to the neck. He was bareheaded, and I recognized him from his general appearance from his eyes and his partially bald head. b7c

"After the curly-headed man, whose identity I do not know, entered the door first, he walked down the steps to the first tier of cells, looked around for a second or two, then walked back up the steps, and screwed loose the light bulb which was burning over the landing in the bull pen, extinguishing this bulb.

"J. P. Walker, Floren Lee and Jewel Alford walked up the steps to the barred door at the head of the stairway. Walker had the jail keys, and he called out to one of the Negro prisoners whom I believe was [redacted] and said 'Which cell is M. C. Parker in?' I heard [redacted] say, 'He's over there', and at about the same time I saw Walker unlock the door at the head of the stairway. Walker, Lee and Alford then went onto the second tier and went to the control box in the center of the second tier, which operates the door to the maximum security cell on the north end of the tier, where M. C. Parker was lodged. At about the time they reached the control box, I heard Parker start hollering for help and for somebody to get the sheriff. b7c

"All this time, [redacted] was standing in the doorway leading to the courtroom, holding in his left hand a .38 nickel-plated snub nose revolver. I walked to the north end of the bull pen corridor, and from this point saw J. P. Walker operate the control box on the second tier, and open the door leading into Parker's cell. After the door was open, I saw Walker, Lee and Alford go toward Parker's cell and go out of sight. Then I heard a crash as if a bucket had been thrown, and the sounds of a scuffle. I heard somebody b7c

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3 "In the Parker cell, whose voice I cannot identify,
4 say 'Shoot him, shoot him'. Then I heard the scuff-
5 ling move from the North cell to the South cell.
6 which was occupied by [REDACTED] b7c
7 [REDACTED] I heard Parker call out for O. S.
8 Henry to help him, and then I saw M. P. Walker pick
9 up a garbage can from the corner of the South cell
0 and throw it.

1
2 "Then I saw J. P. Walker and Floren Lee
3 dragging Parker out into the corridor of the upper
4 tier, followed by Jewel Alford. They were dragging
5 Parker by his heels, Walker pulling Parker by his
6 right leg, and Lee was pulling Parker by his left
7 leg. Walker was at the same time hitting Parker
8 with a policeman's club, a long, smooth wooden club,
9 and Lee was hitting him, Parker, with a piece of
0 dressed wood about fourteen inches long, which
1 appeared to be grey-looking in color, and may have
2 been painted. Alford was hitting Parker with a
3 broom, and I saw the handle break when he hit
4 Parker. Alford picked up the piece of handle, and
5 hit Parker several times with it. Parker was groan-
6 ing and crying out as they dragged him out, and he was
7 bleeding considerably. I saw Floren Lee appeared
8 to be favoring his left arm as he was dragging Parker, and
9 I believe he must have been hit by Walker on this
0 arm.

1 "As Walker and Lee stopped dragging
2 Parker down the stairs from the upper to the lower
3 tier of cells, Parker grabbed with his hands to the
4 railing alongside the steps. Jewel kicked his
5 hands loose. When they reached the landing at the
6 door leading to the courtroom, Parker grabbed again
7 with his hands to the railing, and the [REDACTED] man
8 kicked his hands loose. As they reached the
9 door, Parker begged the men to let him go so he
0 could walk. When he made this statement, [REDACTED]
1 said 'Hell no, you won't walk,' and at the same
2 time reached back with his stick [REDACTED] Parker
3 on the head with the stick. [REDACTED] then stopped
4 back into the courtroom and [REDACTED] and Lee drag- b7c
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"Parker out, followed by Alford and the curly-headed men. Then the door leading to the courtroom closed, and I could hear the iron latch outside this door fall into place, locking it.

"While they were bringing Parker down the steps from the second tier, I was standing in front of the cell on the lower tier occupied by [REDACTED] I told her to put her head down on her bunk, so she wouldn't see anything. During the time the door to the courtroom was open, I could see into the courtroom, since the light on the upper tier was burning the whole time. I saw what appeared to be six or seven people standing around in the courtroom. Those that I saw wore some kind of masks which appeared to be bandanas over their lower faces, and some wore the same kind of white cotton gloves with blue wrist bands. I did not recognize any of these people, and did not hear them say anything. b7c

"The curly-haired man who I have previously mentioned is a white male about 27 or 28 years of age, five feet eight or nine inches tall, about 150 pounds, medium build, with black, kinky hair. He appeared to be excited and to be enjoying himself. He was wearing khaki work shirt and trousers, and he had the cuffs to the shirt turned up about twice, showing two or three inches of the hair on his lower arm, which hair was black. He was wearing white cotton gloves with blue elastic wrist band. He was bare-headed and wore brown low quarter dress shoes. He had a blue bandana over the lower part of his face, from the bridge of his nose to his neck.

"J. P. Walker, whom I have known all my life, is a white male about six feet, one or two inches tall, weighs about 200 pounds, has red hair and is very red-faced. On this occasion, he was wearing khaki work pants and shirt, and the sleeves were buttoned on his shirt. He was wearing white cotton gloves with a blue elastic wrist

"band, and had on a red bandana across the lower part of his face from his nose to his neck. He was bareheaded and had on brown low quarter dress shoes. Walker is about 45-50 years old.

"Floren Lee, whom I have known practically all my life, is a white male in his late 50s, about five feet ten inches, and weighs about 155-160 pounds. On this occasion, he was wearing an old pair of blue dungaree pants and blue chambray work shirt. He was bareheaded, wearing hightop work shoes, and he had a red and white checked bandana across the lower part of his face from the bridge of his nose to his neck. Floren Lee's shirt sleeves were down and buttoned, and he wore a pair of white cotton work gloves with blue wrist bands.

"After the men left the jail with Parker, I went to the south end of the cell block and looked out. I heard Parker yell twice as if he had been hit, and shortly afterward saw about four men, whom I could not identify from that distance, in a 1950 Chevrolet Forder Sedan, white in color, which was parked on the street at the South entrance of the courthouse, which car was facing in a westerly direction. I saw somebody open the back door of this car next to the curb, and I saw two men throw somebody into the back seat. The men then got into the car and it started up and drove west out of sight. As it drove under the streetlight at the corner by the courthouse and the Poplarville Furniture Company, I could see several persons in the car, but I could not say how many were there, or who they were.

"As soon as the Chevrolet started leaving, I saw two men run from the South end of the courthouse diagonally across the street to the car, which I saw to be a 1955 or 1956 white Ford Wildcat Coupe, which was parked on Julia Street in front of the law office, heading in a northward direction. This

"car" started up after these two men got in it, took a left at the corner onto Pearl Street and went out of sight following the Chevrolet. I could not identify these two men.

"At the same time I saw the two men run to the Ford, I saw three unidentified men run from the South side of the courthouse to about a 1953 International pickup truck, dark green in color with a cow body, parked on Pearl Street facing East. These men got in the truck, which sped to Julia Street and drove off out of sight on Julia Street in a southerly direction.

"About this time, I saw two men who had been standing by some bushes at the southwest corner of the courthouse walk across Julia Street and go up to the porch of the Pearl River County Hospital. I could not identify these men, but they stopped at the hospital porch and talked with nurse in a white uniform. I heard the nurse call out to these men that she had called the sheriff. I don't know the identity of the nurse.

"The three vehicles described were the only cars I saw, except for some cars parked at the hospital, which cars remained parked after the men left with Parker. However, at the time J. R. Walker and Floren Lee were dragging Parker out the jail door, I turned around and looked out the north window of the jail and saw about five or six men standing near a clump of bushes at the north west corner of the courthouse, and about the time I saw the white Chevrolet leave. I heard a number of cars start and leave from north of the courthouse. I cannot identify any of the five or six men I saw at the north window, as they were in a dark area.

"At about 6:00 AM Saturday, April 25, 1959, Jewel Alford instructed me to get a pail and some water, and to wash up all the blood